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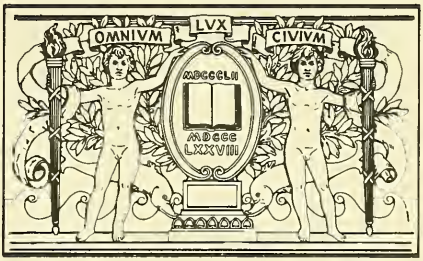

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Ushers In America

Through
Twelve Generations

By
Avis and Ed Nelson

USHERS
In America

Through Twelve Generations

Allied Families of
Hallock, Titus, Wright, and McKnight

First Edition

by

Avis Hedrix Nelson

and

Edwin C. Nelson

Published by the Authors

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Dedicated to
VERA USHER NELSON

One of the fun parts of putting this story together was the part of informing "Mom" Usher Nelson of the newly found bits of information about her family ancestory. She has always been the person to remember the birth dates and names of all of the relatives of her lifetime. She is one who knows and appreciates the joy of sharing the care and love in her family.

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PREFACE

After more than four years of study, research, travel, visiting, and writing about this branch of the Usher family we have decided to have a printing of this first edition. We are calling it the first edition because we know that it is not complete. We are finding new information constantly and there is no best place to pause and put it together but we were determined to have something done in 1976. Maybe another, and more expanded, edition will follow in some other year.

This work has allowed and encouraged us to get acquainted with many fine relatives and friends. It has helped us, too, to appreciate the efforts of all of our ancestors who helped to develop this great nation and to provide the civilization which we are enjoying. The descendants of the Ushers certainly should feel enthusiastic about celebrating this nation's Bicentennial Birthday because they were in America for one hundred forty-two years before the Declaration of Independence was signed.

This information has been compiled from a great variety of sources and the facts have been verified with the best of our abilities. No doubt some names have been omitted and some have been misspelled and there probably are errors in some of the dates and facts but we believe that it represents a good account of twelve generations of descendants of Robert Usher who arrived in America in 1634.

We express our thanks to all of the people who have helped us to gather information and pictures and we thank those who have encouraged and motivated us to accomplish this project.

Avis Hedrix Nelson
Edwin C. Nelson

THE ROBERT USHER FAMILY

The line of descent which has been followed in the description of the Robert Usher family is as follows: Robert Usher, who came to America from England in about 1634, married Elizabeth, the widow of Jeremy Jagger. Their son, Robert of Dunstable, Massachusetts, was born in 1662 and was married to Sarah, a daughter of John and Hannah (Brackett) Kinsley Blanchard. The first son of Robert and Sarah (Blanchard) Usher, Hezekiah, was born in 1694 or 1695 and married to Abigail, a daughter of Aaron and Abigail (Waters) Cleveland.

The second child of Hezekiah and Abigail (Cleveland) Usher, Hezekiah, was born in 1734 and married to Lydia Baker, a daughter of Crosby Baker. The twelfth child of Hezekiah and Lydia (Baker) Usher, Watrous Usher, was born in 1780. Watrous married Welthy Morgan. Son, Elias P. Usher, was born in 1804 and was married to Margaret Keeler. Their fourth child, Moses was born in 1835 and was married to Adeline Wright, daughter of Reverend Charles F. and Thirza G. (Hallock) Wright. The first child of Moses and Adeline (Wright) Usher was Elias Wright Usher, born in 1866. Elias was married first to Bessie Mildred McKnight, a daughter of Joseph and Eliza Foss McKnight.

Elias Wright 'Lyle' and Bessie (McKnight) Usher had three children: George, Vera, and Iva Ruth. In a second marriage, E. W. Usher and Laura (Sorensen) Usher had two children: Lyle and Isabel. Vera, born in 1901, married Clifford Nelson, son of Peter T. Nelson and Sophia (Schunneman) Nelson. Vera and Clifford Nelson had four sons: Edwin, Vern, Donald and James. Edwin, born in 1922, married Avis A. Hedrix, a daughter of Hiram Dale and Ruth (Butler) Hedrix.

Edwin and Avis (Hedrix) Nelson have two children: Judith Kay and Roger Lee. Judith, born in 1942, married Robert Yost, son of Millard and Marjorie (Gueck) Yost. To Judith and Robert Yost was born Robyn Kymberly Yost in 1968. Roger Lee Nelson, the son of Edwin and Avis (Hedrix) Nelson, was born in 1946 and was married to Nancy Lee Brady, a daughter of Maurice Lee and Mickie Gelene (North) Brady. Roger and Nancy (Brady) Nelson have two children: Angela Kay, born in 1972, and David Roger, born in 1974.

ROBERT USHER
and
The First Generation of Ushers in America

The Ushers in America began with the brothers, Robert and Hezekiah Usher, arriving from England in 1634. Another brother, Samuel, and a sister, Elizabeth, remained in England. In the will of Elizabeth Harwood of Bednall Green in the County of Middlesex in England, there are references to "— my brother Samuel Usher —" and "— my brother Hezekiah Usher of New England —". This will was proved April 11, 1687.

The libraries hold two versions of the descent of this Usher family. The version which is believed to be correct is the one described on the preceding page. The other version would begin with Hezekiah, the brother of Robert, and appear as follows:

Hezekiah (1615) married first Frances ____. Their fifth child, John Usher, born February 17, 1648, married a second time to Elizabeth Allen. Their son, Hezekiah, born in 1705, married first Abigail Cleveland, then Jennie Greenleaf, then Elizabeth Whittemore. A son of Hezekiah and Jennie (Greenleaf) Usher was Hezekiah, born in 1734. This is the Hezekiah who married Lydia Baker and had a son, Watrous. The difference in the two versions:

Hezekiah (1615) & Frances	Robert ( ) & Elizabeth
John (1648) & Elizabeth	Robert (1662) & Sarah
Hezekiah (1705) & Jennie	Hezekiah (1694-5) & Abigail
Hezekiah (1734) & Lydia	Hezekiah (1734) & Lydia
Watrous (1780)	Watrous (1780)

A thorough study of the writings of the Usher genealogists and a review of records of deeds, wills, and transactions were done by Rollin Usher Tyler of Haddam, Connecticut, and described in **The New England Historical and Genealogical Register**, Volume LIV. Boston: 1900. He proposed to correct the records of the genealogists and to show that the Hezekiah Usher (1694-5), whom Abigail Cleveland married, was the son of Robert Usher of Dunstable, and not of John Usher; that he had no other wife than Abigail; that he died at East Haddam, Connecticut, in 1750; and that Abigail outlived him, as his widow for twenty-seven years.

According to this account, in about 1730, there were two

Hezekiah Ushers living at Charlestown or Medford, Massachusetts. The Hezekiah born in 1694-5, a joiner and currier, was a son of Robert and Sarah (Blanchard) Usher, of Dunstable, and a grandson of Robert Usher of Stamford, who immigrated from England. The other Hezekiah, born in 1705, a tin plate worker, was a son of Lt. Governor John and Elizabeth (Allen) Usher, and a grandson of Hezekiah Usher, the merchant of Boston, who immigrated from England.

There should be little doubt left the reader of Tyler's account as to its being the correct information about the line of descent in the Robert Usher family.

Robert Usher settled in the Connecticut Colony by 1636. He was admitted freeman at New Haven on July 1, 1644, and later removed to Stamford where he resided until his death. On May 13, 1659, Robert was married to Elizabeth, the widow of a prominent man with a large estate, Jeremy Jagger. Robert Usher was the executor of the will of Mr. Jagger. Mr Usher was constable in 1662, Representative in 1665 and 1667, and Selectman in 1669.

Hezekiah Usher, the older brother who came to the Americas with Robert Usher, resided in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1642 and in Boston in 1645. He was the first bookseller and publisher in English America. He gained recognition and wealth in the early history of New England.

Edwin C. Nelson, one of the researchers of this account, in November, 1975, visited the tomb of Hezekiah Usher in the Kings' Chapel Burial Grounds in Boston, Massachusetts. This is reported to be the first burial grounds established in the American colonies. Hezekiah's body was entombed on a prominent site in 1676.

A review of the court proceedings in the New Haven Colony reveals the name of Robert Usher many times. On April 7, 1646, he and three others were fined 20 shillings each for "disorderly drinking strong licquors to the abuse of some of them, so farr as that they lost the use of their senses." In the same record is the following statement: "Robert Usher defective in ye sockett of his piece fyned 1 shilling." A few weeks later it is recorded that he was an informant in the court.1

When Robert Usher died in 1669, he left a good estate and directions in his will for his brother, Hezekiah, to bring up his two

children, Elizabeth and Robert. Elizabeth was born on February 25, 1659 or 1660, and may have been a daughter of Jeremy Jagger. Robert was born in 1662, so was only about seven years old when his father died. Following is a copy of the contents of the will of Robert Usher:

> The 21 September 69 in Standford
> The will of Robert Usher concerning the disposal of his worldly estate declared by word of mouth Unto us whose names are underwritten as followeth:
>
> 1 that his wife should have one third of his estate.
>
> 2 ly that the Residue of his estate be devided unto his two Children, viz: Robert and Elizabeth, his son Robert to have a dubble part to Elizabeth. Alsoe he declared his will to be that his wife should have the use of the house and Lands during her Life time and that his sonn Robert should have the right and propriety and possessed of the said house, housing and Lands after the death of his wife —
>
> 3 ly that he gave five pounds unto Deborah Rose: —
>
> 4 ly that he gave Twenty shillings unto Richard Cosens —
>
> 5 ly that sum small debts (he willed with discreation) to be passed over not allowed in his estate, And that the bill of Richard Scofeild be cancelled and given in to them and as reason may require with more to be added for her helpfulness unto him —
>
> 6 ly he declared his mind and desire that his brother (Mr. Hesekia Usher of boston) should have his two children if he send for them and his wife can consent to part with them earnestly desiring that his brother might bee Informed of his mind therein.
>
> Witnes our hands —
> John Bishop
> John Holly
>
> As touching the premises and the person concerned, viz., Robert Usher deceased

(From the Fairfield Probate Records, vol. 1665-75, p. 53)

1 Charles J. Hoadly, **Records of the Colony and Plantation of New Haven, from 1638 to 1649** (Hartford: Printed by Case, Tiffany and Company, 1857), pp. 229-232.

ROBERT USHER (1662-1710)
and
The Second Generation

Robert and Elizabeth Usher, brother and sister and children of Robert and Elizabeth (Jagger) Usher, born in Stamford, Connecticut, were among the first settlers of Dunstable, Massachusetts. Little is known of these children from the time of their father's death until they were located in Dunstable. The first wedding recorded at Dunstable was that of Elizabeth Usher and John Sollendine on August 2, 1680. The first birth recorded at Dunstable, in April 1679, was that of William Tyng, the son of Jonathan Tyng, and Sarah Usher, a daughter of the Hezekiah Usher who came to America in 1634. Hezekiah Usher, Jr. was engaged in mining in this community and Sollendine was the designer and builder of the first church and the first bridge in Dunstable.

Robert Usher (1662) married Sarah Blanchard (1670), a daughter of Deacon John Blanchard and Hannah (Brackett) Kinsley, on January 23, 1694. Hannah was born in Braintree in 1634 as the daughter of Deacon Richard and Alice Brackett. She was a widow of Samuel Kinsley and a mother of Elizabeth, who married John Cummings of Dunstable. John Blanchard was a son of Thomas and Ann Blanchard. Widow Ann Blanchard died in Chelmsford on June 24, 1662.

Deacon John Blanchard was first married in 1657 to Elizabeth Hills, born 1627, a daughter of Joseph and Rose (Clark) Hills. For good service to the colony, 500 acres in Dunstable were granted to Joseph Hills, which in his will is bequeathed to his granddaughters, Hannah and Elizabeth Blanchard of Dunstable. Elizabeth (Hills) Blanchard died about 1662 and Deacon John Blanchard married Mrs. Hannah (Brackett) Kinsley, who was born in 1634, and became the mother of Sarah Blanchard who married Robert Usher.

John Blanchard was one of the foundation members and the first deacon of the church of Dunstable. He was one of its most active and useful citizens. In the lives of his sons and his grandsons, his example was cherished and his good works were renewed. He died in 1694 and his widow, Hannah; her daughter, Elizabeth (Kinsley) Cummings; her son, Nathaniel Blanchard, with his wife, Lydia Blanchard; and Susannah, a daughter of

Nathaniel and Lydia Blanchard, were slain at Dunstable by the Indians, on July 3, 1706.

Following is the list of the eleven children of Deacon John Blanchard. The first two children were delivered by his wife, Elizabeth, and the others were the children of Hannah:

(i) Hannah, born at Charlestown, January 6, 1658-9: married Thomas Read of Chelmsford.
(ii) Elizabeth, married first Robert Parris, then Thomas Burrage of Lynn, Massachusetts.
(iii) Josiah, born March 15, 1665; died young.
(iv) Benjamin, born March 15, 1665; twin.
(v) James, born March 10, 1666.
(vi) Thomas, born 1668.
(vii) SARAH, born 1690; married January 23, 1694, to Robert Usher.
(viii) Joseph, born November 1, 1672.
(ix) Mary, born September 23, 1674; married John Derbyshire, then Nathaniel Woods.
(x) Nathaniel, twin born September 23, 1674.
(xi) Martha, born 1676; died November 16, 1676.

Robert and Sarah (Blanchard) Usher, who spent many years of their lives in the Dunstable, Massachusetts area, had rich heritages relating to the early history of the American Colonies. They had four children who will be described in the following pages:

(i) HEZEKIAH USHER, born in 1694 or 1695, and married, to Abigail Cleveland; died in 1750.
(ii) John, born in 1696 and died in 1766.
(iii) Sarah, born in 1698.
(iv) Robert, born in 1700 and died in 1725.

Robert Usher (1662) died about 1710 at the age of approximately 48 years.

HEZEKIAH USHER (1694-5 to 1750)
and
The Third Generation

The third generation of Ushers in America is made up of the four children of Robert Usher (1662) and Sarah (Blanchard) Usher (1670), and their families. The one of special interest in this branch of the tree is Hezekiah, the older of the children. He, his two brothers, John and Robert; and his sister, Sarah, will be described in this section.

(1) HEZEKIAH USHER, who was born to Robert and Sarah in 1694 or 1695, at Dunstable, Massachusetts, married into the Cleveland family. On June 20, 1728, he married Abigail Cleveland, who was born May, 1706 to Aaron and Abigail (Waters) Cleveland of Medford, Massachusetts. Abigail (Cleveland) Usher was in the fourth generation of Clevelands in America and four generations later a descendant of her brother became president of the United States, so perhaps she could be identified as a great, great, great aunt of President Grover Cleveland.

Abigail's great grandfather, Moses Cleveland — sometimes spelled Cleaveland — of Ipswich, Suffolk County, England, sailed for London and landed in America in 1635. The parish records at St. Nicholas Church, Ipswich, England, show baptisms, burials, and marriages, 1542 to 1612, of the Ipswich Clevelands, all of whom were unmistakably kin to Moses Cleveland of Woburn, Massachusetts, 1635-1640.[2]

Moses Cleveland, who settled at Woburn, Massachusetts, was born in about 1624 and came to America in 1635 at eleven years of age. On September 7, 1648, he married Ann Winn, who was born in Wales or England about 1626, to Edward and Joanna Winn.[3]

Moses and Ann (Winn) Cleveland had the following children:

(i) Moses, born September 1, 1651;
(ii) Hannah, born August 4, 1653 and married to Thomas Henshaw in 1677:
(iii) AARON, born January 10, 1655;
(iv) Samuel, born June 9, 1657;
(v) Miriam, born July 10, 1659;

2 William Richard Cutter, **Genealogican and Personal Memoirs** (New York: Lewis Historical Publ. Co., 1908) p 1483.
3 Samuel Sewall, **The History of Woburn** (Boston: Wiggin and Lunt, Publishers 1868) p. 649.

(vi) Joanna, born September 19, 1661 and died July 2, 1667;
(vii) Edward, born May 20, 1663;
(viii) Josiah, born February 26, 1666-67;
(ix) Isaac, born May 11, 1669;
(x) Joanna, born April 5, 1670 and married a Keyes of Chelmsford;
(xi) Enoch, born August 1, 1671.

Moses Cleveland Sr., who immigrated from England, died on January 9, 1701-2 at about 77 years of age.

Abigail (Cleveland) Usher's grandfather, Aaron Cleveland, born to Moses and Ann (Winn) Cleveland on January 10, 1655, on September 26, 1675, married Dorcas Wilson, of Woburn, Massachusetts. Dorcas was born in 1657 as the second child and the oldest daughter of John Wilson, Sr. Aaron and Dorcas (Wilson) Cleveland had ten children:

(i) Dorcas, born October 29, 1676 and married to John Knight on March 12, 1699;
(ii) Hannah, born December 18, 1678 and died June 13, 1679;
(iii) AARON, born July 9, 1680;
(iv) Hannah, born June 2, 1687;
(v) Moses, born February 24, 1689-90:
(vi) Sarah, born March 5, 1692;
(vii) Miriam, born July 9, 1694;
(viii) Isabel, born April 6, 1697 and died December 7, 1714;
(ix) Benjamin, born May 16, 1701;
(x) Ann, born ____.

Dorcas, wife of Aaron and mother of these children died November 29, 1714. Aaron married a second wife, Prudence. Aaron died September 14, 1716, at 61 years of age.

Abigail (Cleveland) Usher's father, Aaron Cleveland, born to Aaron and Dorcas (Wilson) Cleveland on July 9, 1680, married Abigail Waters in 1702. Abigail Waters, born November 29, 1683, was the fifth child of Samuel Waters (1651-1728) and Mary (Hudson) Waters (1653-1721), of Woburn, Massachusetts. Aaron Cleveland was a carpenter by trade and he and his family lived in Woburn until after the birth of the second child. They moved from Woburn to Medford, then to Cambridge, back to Medford, then to Charlestown where they lived until 1738. In 1738 they moved to East Haddam, Connecticut, where Aaron bore the title of

"Captain" and traded largely in land. Aaron died in 1755 and his wife in 1761.

Aaron and Abigail (Waters) Cleveland had nine children:

(i) Aaron, born at Woburn, October 20, 1702, and died at Cambridge in 1716;
(ii) Samuel, born May 17, 1704, was later known as a mariner in Boston;
(iii) ABIGAIL, born at Medford on May 10, 1706, and became the wife of Hezekiah Usher and the subject of this account;
(iv) John, baptized October 7, 1711, in the First Church of Cambridge;
(v) Josiah, baptized November 1, 1713, and married to Joanna Porter, daughter of Rev. Aaron Porter, of Medford on January 1, 1735;
(vi) Aaron, born at Cambridge on October 29, 1715, entered Harvard College at sixteen years of age. He graduated in 1735 and was installed over the church of Haddam, Connecticut, in July 1739, when he was 24 years of age. In August, 1739 he married Susannah Porter, a daughter of Rev. Aaron Porter and a sister of Joanna, who married Josiah Cleveland. This man received Orders in the Church of England at London, 1755, and in 1757 he took charge of the Episcopal Church in Newcastle, Delaware. In that same year while visiting at the house of Dr. Franklin, in Philadelphia, he became ill and died. It was his son, Rev. Aaron Cleveland, who was to be recorded as the great grandfather of Grover Cleveland.
(vii) John, baptized in infancy on July 18, 1717;
(viii) Moses, baptized as an infant on July 19, 1719:
(ix) a child whose name was probably Mary was baptized in infancy January 7, 1724.[4]

Abigail Cleveland, listed above as the third child of Aaron and Abigail (Waters) Cleveland and born on May 10, 1706, married Hezekiah Usher on June 20, 1728.

Hezekiah Usher (1694-5) was known as Hezekiah Usher of Lynne, a joyner, when he quitclaimed to his brother, John Usher, "cooper", of Dunstable, his interest in certain lands in Dunstable, in about 1730. His estate was appraised at the time of his death in 1750 but was not distributed until 1755, at which time his oldest

4 Ibid, pp. 600-601.

son, Hezekiah, was of age. The homestead of Hezekiah and Abigail was in that part of East Haddam, Connecticut, known as North Plain, and near where the Hadlyme and Salem turnpike crosses Eight Mile River.[5] Widow Abigail Usher died at the home of her son, Doctor Robert Usher, in East Haddam, Connecticut, in November of 1777.

Hezekiah and Abigail (Cleveland) Usher had five children:

(i) Abigail, born April 3, 1730.
(ii) HEZEKIAH, born June 2, 1734.
(iii) John, born May 23 or 24, 1736.
(iv) Robert, born January 31, 1742.
(v) James, born July 18, 1747.

These children will be further described in the next chapter in the discussion of the fourth generation of the Ushers.

(2) John Usher (1696-1766), a brother of Hezekiah and the second child listed in this third generation of the Usher family, was the son of Robert (1662) and Sarah (Blanchard) Usher. John was known as a cooper in Dunstable, Massachusetts. He married a cousin, Hannah Brackett and had nine children:

(i) John, born May 2, 1728, and died young.
(ii) Robert, born April 9, 1730. Known as Robert Usher of Merrimack, New Hampshire, he married Sarah Stearns of Bedford and had nine children:

1. Sarah, born July 6, 1755, and married to Joseph Nash,
2. Abijah, born February 15, 1757, of Medford, Massachusetts, was married first to Mary Wells and had three children: Ellis B., Abijah, and Mary. His second wife was Rebecca Kidder with whom he had five children: Samuel, James Madison, Drusilla, James Maddison, and Robert S.,
3. Hannah, born February 7, 1759, and married to John Peters,
4. Robert, born March 7, 1761,
5. Daniel, born May 14, 1763,
6. Fanny, born 1764,
7. John, born 1766,
8. Mary, born 1768 and married to Wyman Weston,

5 **The New England Historical and Genealogical Register**, vol. LIV (Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1900) p. 78.

9. Eleazer, born 1770.

(iii) Rachel, born in 1732.
(iv) Abijah, born August 8, 1734, and died young.
(v) William, died at Hallowell.
(vi) John, born December 5, 1741, and died young.
(vii) Elizabeth, born March 13, 1744, and married ____ Robinson.
(viii) Olive, born August 27, 1749, and died young.
(ix) Eleazer, born June 16, 1746.

(3) Sarah Usher was the third child born to Robert Usher (1662) and Sarah (Blanchard) Usher (1670). The search effort in compiling this account has brought forth very little information about her life. She was born in 1698 and it is known that she joined her mother and brothers in signing some legal papers to transfer property in 1721-22.

(4) Robert Usher, born in 1700, the youngest child of Robert and Sarah Usher, was killed by the Indians at the Lovewell's Fight in 1725. He had joined John Lovewell and about forty others on a hunt to gather Indian scalps. The following petition is supposed to be copied from the original document in the office of the Secretary of State in Boston:

> The humble memorial of John Lovewell, Josiah Farwell and Jonathan Robbins, all of Dunstable, sheweth:
>
> That your petitioners, with near forty or fifty others, are inclined to range and keep out in the woods for several months together, in order to kill and destroy their enemy Indians, provided they can meet encouragement suitable. And your petitioners are employed and desired by many others Humbly to propose and submit to your Honors consideration, that if such soldiers may be allowed five shillings per day, in case they kill any enemy Indian, and possess his scalp, they will Imploy themselves in Indian hunting one whole year; and if within that time they do not kill any, they are content to be allowed nothing for their wages, time, and trouble.
>
> John Lovewell,
> Josiah Farwell,
> Dunstable, Nov., 1724 Jonathan Robbins.

The petition was granted, the bounty was changed to one hundred pounds for every Indian scalp, there were plenty of volunteers, and on April 16, 1725, the hunt began. The Pequawket expedition, known as "Lovewell's Defeat" ended in less than thirty days after the death of Robert Usher, many of his companions and a countless number of Indians. The spot where the wilderness battle was fought has been visited by thousands, and the tragic event has been commemorated in story and song at the firesides of the Saco Valley from the mountains to the sea. The full account of this legend may be read in a number of books and publications, among them being **Saco Valley Settlements and Families,** by G. T. Ridlon, Sr. (Portland: Published by the Author, 1895) pp 25-31.

Ellis B. Usher, listed earlier in this section as the first son of Abijah and Mary (Wells) Usher, the grandson of Robert and Sarah (Stearns) Usher of Merrimack, New Hampshire, the great grandson of John Usher (1696-1766), and the great, great grandson of Hezekiah and Abigail (Cleveland) Usher is referenced in many library materials as a prolific writer. He lived at La Crosse, Wisconsin. Ellis B. Usher was married in 1812 to Rebecca Randall who died in 1819. They had three children: Henry E. (1814-1827), Benjamin JR (1815-1816), and Sarah Ellen (1817-____). With his second wife, Hannah Lane, he had these children: Rebecca, 1821; Martha Hooper, 1823; Isaac Lane, 1825; Jane Maria, 1828-1832; Mary, 1833-1833; and Jane Maria, 1836.

HEZEKIAH USHER (1734-1809)
and
The Fourth Generation

The fourth generation of this branch of the Usher family in America had the membership of the five children of Hezekiah Usher (1694-5 to 1750) and Abigail (Cleveland) Usher (1706-1777): Abigail, HEZEKIAH, John, Robert, and James.

(1) Abigail Usher, who was born April 3, 1730, at Medford, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, married John Stewart, who claimed close relation to the royal Stewarts of England. The John Stewarts lived at Hartford, Connecticut and had these children:

(i) John Stewart and
(ii) Sarah Stewart. Sarah, born August 13, 1759, at Hartford, married Jedediah Richards on October 19, 1780. She died in Wadsworth, Medina County, Ohio after giving birth to ten children:

1. Jedediah Richards, born 1781 and died in 1844;
2. Robert Usher Richards, born 1783 and died in 1830, married Jerusha Rochwell, moved west and is reported to have invented a rotary steam engine and a machine for turning pails;
3. Mills Richards, born in 1785 and died at Norton, Summit County, Ohio in 1840;
4. Ezekial Richards, born in 1787 and died as a merchant in Princeton, Illinois in 1850;
5. William S. Richards, born in 1789 and married Almira Lucas;
6. Henry Richards, born in 1792, was married to Lowly Hickock. (He was visited in 1814 by Selden Usher);
7. William Cullen Richards, born in 1794;
8. Julius Richards, born in 1796 and died in 1836;
9. George W. Richards, M.D., born in 1799 and died at Dubuque, Iowa after serving as a professor in the Medical Colleges at Laporte and Keokuk, Iowa;
10. Sally Richards, born in 1802 and died at Norfolk, Connecticut in 1803.

(2) HEZEKIAH USHER, the second child of Hezekiah and Abigail (Cleveland) Usher, was born June 2, 1734 at Medford, Massachusetts. On November 3, 1757 he married Lydia Baker, a

daughter of Crosby Baker, who was born about 1736. Hezekiah and Lydia lived at East Haddam, Connecticut and at Brookfield, Chenango County, New York while rearing a family of fourteen children. These children are identified with the fifth generation in this account and will be discussed in the next section of this paper. This Usher family must have been among the early settlers of Chenango County, New York. Hezekiah died on March 28, 1809 and Lydia died on December 31, 1808.

(3) John Usher, the third child of Hezekiah and Abigail, was born May 23/24/25, 1736, and lived much of his life at Smithfield, Rhode Island. He was a soldier of the Revolutionary War who enlisted October 19, 1779 in Colonel Chapin's Regiment. Later, on April 10, 1782 he enlisted in the Seventh Regiment. He first married Freelove Luther by whom he had seven children. On October 15, 1815, Freelove died and John later married Zilphia Phillips. John Usher was a man who sold land in East Haddam in 1758 and in 1775. He died at Gloucester, Rhode Island in July, 1837 at the age of 101 years. John and Freelove had seven children:

(i) Stephen Usher, who married Prudence Colwell, had a son, Daniel, who married Thankful Steere. Daniel and Thankful had a daughter, Malona (Usher) Patt, and a granddaughter, Ella (Patt) Slocum, the wife of Phillip Wade Slocum.
(ii) Jane Usher;
(iii) John Usher;
(iv) Daniel Usher, born February 15, 1786;
(v) James Usher;
(vi) Freelove Usher, married to Ebenezer Southwick; and
(vii) Delia Usher, who married Valentine Inman and had at least one child, Roxira, who married Jason Lawrence.

Daniel Usher, listed in the above paragraph after (iv), married in 1812 and had eighteen children:

1. James S., 1813;
2. Delia A., 1814;
3. Elisha M., 1815;
4. Wheaton, 1817;
5. Freelove, 1818;
6. Rosanna, 1820;
7. Joseph;

8. John, 1822;
9. Rachel, 1824;
10. Daniel, 1826;
11. Stephen, 1827;
12. Samuel L., 1828;
13. Edward F., 1830;
14. Susan J., 1832;
15. Alvin L., 1834;
16. Clarissa, 1836;
17. William H., 1838; and
18. Harkless S., 1840.

(4) Robert Usher, the fourth child of Hezekiah and Abigail (Cleveland) Usher, referenced as being associated at Chatham and Colchester, Connecticut, was born January 31, 1742 on a coaster between Cape Cod and the Connecticut River, presumably when the family was enroute from Charlestown to East Haddam. This Robert Usher, when nine years old, went to live and study with Honorable Jonathan Huntington of Windham, Connecticut. Mr. Huntington was a council member, judge, and a successful practitioner of physic. At age 19 Robert Usher began the practice of medicine, living in Westchester from that time, and had a large circuit — Westchester, Colchester, New London County, Millington, and Chatham. Dr. Robert Usher was appointed January 30, 1776, Surgeon and Physician for the First Connecticut Regiment, then raised by Colonel Wadsworth and sent to Cambridge, Massachusetts for service under General Washington.

Robert Usher first married Susanna Gates, born in Westchester, Connecticut and baptized by Reverend Thomas Skinner on August 28, 1748. They were married on May 23, 1765 and had five children before Susanna died on December 13, 1777. On January 25, 1779, Robert married Anna Cone, who was born in 1755 to Captain Johan and Elizabeth Cone. Anna died on May 20 1849 and was buried at Westchester, Connecticut. Robert died at Westchester on March 27, 1820. His children were sixteen in number as follows:

(i) Oliver Usher, born September 16, 1765 and died August 11, 1824. He was married first to Huldah Foote then to Sarah Andrews Rawson. His children were Jerusha Cadwell, 1790;

Catherine Rawson, 1807; Robert Oliver, 1809; Emiline Dorothy, 1811; and Julia Eliza, 1814.
(ii) Jonathan Usher, born July 4, 1768 and died December 22, 1769.
(iii) Jonathan Usher, born November 7, 1770 and died December 26, 1839. He married Mehitable B. Comstock on November 25, 1803 and had five children: Selden, 1806; Cornelia Ann, 1808; Caroline M., 1811; Jonathan P., 1813; and Maria M., 1816.
(iv) Robert Usher, born December 14, 1772 and died September 27, 1851. In 1797 he married Lucy, daughter of William and Lucy (Day) Brainerd, born April 22, 1778. Their children were: Newell F., 1798; William, 1799; Horace, 1801; Almira, 1810; and Robert R., 1812.
(v) Susanna Usher, born August 23, 1774 and married about 1803 to Ebenezer Rollo. The children were Harriet (Rollo) Fitch and a son.
(vi) James Usher, born February 25, 1780 and died August 12, 1780.
(vii) James Usher, born July 18, 1781 and died October 1, 1817. He died as Dr. James Usher at Murfreesboro, Hartford County, North Carolina unmarried.

(viii) Revilo Cone Usher, born January 19, 1783 and married to Mandana, a daughter of Reverend Robert and Jerusha (Estabrook) Robbins on April 4, 1827. Their children were: Catherine Meroa, 1827; Robert Bela Robbins, 1831; Abby Mandana, 1833; Amatus Revilo, 1834; and James Chauncy, 1837.

(ix) Anna Usher, born October 25, 1784 and died September 21, 1801.
(x) Statira Usher, born July 22, 1786, and died June 8, 1848. She was a teacher in Hartford, Connecticut and the second wife of General Stephen F. Palmer of Ashford, Windham County, Connecticut and a member of the Assembly in Hartford.
(xi) Abigail Usher, born May 30, 1788 and married to Reverend Jonathan Cone.
(xii) Deodate Johnson Usher, born April 6, 1790 and died unmarried on March 24, 1871.
(xiii) Sophran Usher, born January 29, 1792 and married November 8, 1826 to Abigail Lord, daughter of Elisha Jr. and

Beersheba (Sellen) of Marlboro. Their child, Elisha Lord Usher, was born 1835 and died in 1839..
(xiv) Harriet Usher, born December 16, 1793 and died unmarried January 26, 1868.
(xv) Elizabeth Usher, born January 19, 1796 died unmarried February 16, 1838.
(xvi) Josiah Cleveland Usher, born August 24, 1802.

(5) James Usher, the fifth child of Hezekiah and Abigail (Cleveland) Usher, identified with Chatham, Connecticut and Canaan, New York, was born July 18, 1747. On January 20, 1774 he married Sarah Brainerd, born June 22, 1755 as the daughter of Nathan and Sarah (Gates) Brainerd and the granddaughter of William and Sarah (Bidwell) Brainerd. The children of James and Sarah (Brainerd) Usher were:

(i) Abbie Usher,
(ii) Sallie Usher.
(iii) Ruth Usher.
(iv) Fanny Usher, who married Melchias Strohn, of Greenfield, Massachusetts, in 1791. One of their children, Maria Christine (1792-1878), married Guy Carlton Baker and had a daughter, Jane Usher Baker (1827-1913) who was the wife of William Henry Bolte (1819-1884).
(v) James Usher.

WATROUS USHER (1780-1840)
and
The Fifth Generation

The fifth generation of this branch of the Usher family in America had the membership of the children of Hezekiah Usher (1734-1809) and Lydia (Baker) Usher (1736-1808):

(1) Jane Usher, born August 2, 1758.

(2) Lydia Usher, born February 18, 1769, was married to William Brown and had two children:

(i) William, and
(ii) Olive, who married Samuel Coon.

(3) Harris Usher, born September 10, 1762, and died May 17, 1771.

(4) Abigail Usher, born August 12, 1764, and died May 28, 1831. She was married to Samuel Tyler.

(5) Sarah Usher, born April 1, 1765, was married to Paul Palmer.

(6) Hezekiah Usher, born April 2, 1767, was married to Alice Ransom on May 11, 1795. A child, Nancy, was born in 1797 and died May 2, 1803. Hezekiah and Alice lived in North Olmstead, Ohio.

(7) Susanna Usher, born March 1, 1769, married Paul Palmer on March 23, 1800 and died July, 1801.

(8) Aaron Cleveland Usher, born October 17, 1770, was married on February 2, 1790 to Rachel Church. They lived at East Haddam, Connecticut.

(9) Olive Usher, born October 17, 1772, and died March 17, 1775.

(10) Harris Usher, born May 12, 1774, was married to Elizabeth Shaw on May 31, 1801 and lived in East Haddam, Connecticut.

(11) Charles Lee Usher, born March 13, 1776. In an account of the history of Madison County, New York, it was noted that Charles Lee Usher was an officer of the town of Brookfield in 1799. Also, Harris Usher was an officer in 1812.

(12) WATROUS USHER, born February 7, 1780, removed to

North Olmstead, Ohio. The very early history of the townships of Cuyahoga County, Ohio, shows the names of members of the Usher family. In about 1820 Charles, Hezekiah and Watrous were among the immigrants to Ohio.

(13) Moses-Craft Usher, born October 14, 1783, married September 10, 1809, to Lucy Palmer, who was born in Colchester, Connecticut, October 22, 1791, as the daughter of John Palmer of Stonington, Connecticut. Moses-Craft Usher died shortly after his marriage on January 28, 1810.

(14) Nathaniel Usher, born October 28, 1786, was married on December 13, 1810, to Lucy (Palmer) Usher, the widow of his brother, Moses-Craft Usher. Nathaniel, who became a physician died September 23, 1865, and Lucy died October, 1870. Their children were:

(i) Almira A. Usher, born December 11, 1811, and married Samuel Hill;
(ii) Moses Usher, born September 11, 1813;
(iii) John Palmer Usher, born January 9, 1816, married Margaret Patterson, and became a prominent lawyer after being admitted to the bar and moving to Indiana. He served as attorney general of that state for many years before he was appointed to President Lincoln's Cabinet as Secretary of Interior in 1863. He died as a resident of Lawrence, Kansas, April 13, 1889;
(iv) Abigail Jane Usher, born September 19, 1818, married John Campbell and had a daughter, Sarah, who married Dr. Edwin N. Coon of DeRuyter, New York;
(v) Mandana Usher, born March 15, 1821, and married Harvey Holmes;
(vi) Cynthia Usher, born April 19, 1823, and died in infancy;
(vii) Lucy Usher, born June 21, 1825, married James Collier;
(viii) Nathaniel Usher, born October 11, 1827, and married Pamela E. Woolverton;
(ix) Cynthia Usher, born October 27, 1830, married Martin Dedrick.

The writers were not able to gather all of the information desired on Watrous Usher (1780), the member of special interest in this Usher lineage. He was married to Welthy Morgan who was born about 1779 and died December 21, 1851. Early in 1823, township six, in range fifteen of Cuyahoga County, Ohio, was

named Lenox Township and on April 14, 1823, the first officers were elected, with Watrous Usher as a trustee. In 1827 Elias P. Usher, the son of Watrous, was listed as one of the two overseers of the poor; Hezekiah Usher was one of the four supervisors of the highways; and Watrous Usher was a justice of the peace. A list of the trustees through the years shows the name of E. P. Usher in the years of 1851, 1852, 1853, and 1854. In the late 1820's Watrous Usher built a sawmill at the Rocky River Falls, which later was known as Olmstead Falls.

In an account of the history of Cuyahoga County, Ohio, it was

In a cemetery in what was known as Butternut Ridge in Ohio, is a tall marker for Watrous and Welthy Usher.

recorded that Watrous Usher was overseer of the poor in Middleburg Township.

On February 26, 1831, Watrous Usher, of Olmstead, was appointed by the Governor to serve for a 7-year term as one of the judges of the court of commmon pleas.

The 1850 census of Olmstead Township, Cuyahoga County, Ohio, lists the family of E. P. Usher and it lists a William Usher family with whom Welthy was living. Welthy was the widow of Watrous, who died on September 18, 1840.

In the court records there is reference to the estate of Watrous Usher on June 15, 1854. Elias Usher was listed as executor of the will at that time but on September 8, 1855, the record showed a complaint of Maria McVickers to remove the executor. On September 17, 1855, Elias resigned and on November 20, 1855, Plissy Wyman was appointed administrator. On March 28, 1859, further time was allowed.

The cemetery at North Olmstead, Cuyahoga County, Ohio (once known as the Usher Cemetery) contains the markers for many Ushers. On the large marker are the following names:

Watrous Usher, died September 18, 1840 at age 60
Welthy Usher, died December 21, 1851 at age 72
Anson Usher, died March 9, 1870 at age 84
Oliva Usher, died 1853
Lydia, wife of (illegible) died November 1, 1810 at age 33
Lydia Ann Vickers, died ____, 1851 at age 19

Small markers are marked with: Anson, Watrous, Welthy, J. H. Vickers, Mother Maria Vickers, Ann, Lydia, and Oliva.

Other markers nearby have names of:

Ora W. Usher	1844-1927
Mary, wife	1850-1927
Ora B. Usher	
Mabel	1875-1894

On a large marker are these names:

Elijah Stearns	July 4, 1806 - June 28, 1881
Wealthy, wife	March 17, 1810 - July 13, 1881
Hannah, wife	September 18, 1836 - January 29, 1877

Elijah Stearns July 4, 1806 - June 28, 1881
Wealthy, wife March 17, 1810 - July 13, 1881
Hannah, wife September 18, 1836 - January 29, 1877
Children:
Loring 1838-1863
Usher 1834-1861
William 1848-1861
Byron 1859-1864
Infants born and died, 1861

A telephone conversation with David R. Usher, 12812 Garland Heights in Cleveland, Ohio in June, 1976, revealed that Butternut Ridge Cemetery was given to the city of North Olmstead by the Usher family. Also it was learned that the Usher Road was the road that ran past the Usher property and was the road running to the mill on Rocky River years ago.

David R. Usher is the son of Lee and the grandson of Ora Usher. Ora had children with names of Olivia Stimpson, Mabel, Mary, Daisy, and Lee. It was David's understanding that Watrous Usher was his grandfather's uncle.

Eleanor Blakeslee, 175 E. Bridge Street, Berea, Ohio, was also helpful in furnishing information about Usher history.

Following is a copy of the will of Watrous Usher:

I Watrous Usher of Olmstead County of Cuyahoga and State of Ohio being weak in body but of sound and perfect mind and memory do make and publish this my last will and testament in manner and form as follows to writ: I give and bequeath unto my beloved wife Wealthy Usher in addition to her right of (illegible) in my free hold estate all my recuring apparrel and such part of my houshold goods as have not been given or promised to my two daughters Mary Marie Vickers and Ester Usher to be distributed by her will to our children in such proportions as she may see fit.

I also give and bequeath to my eldest son Elias Usher one hundred acres being the farm now occupyed by him together with the stock now in his posession. But in case there should be a failure in procuring a deed of said land then, and in that case said Elias shall be entitled to an

equal share with my sons Anson and William in my home farm.

I also give and bequeath unto my sons Anson and William my home farm together with the stock which may be upon said farm at the time of my decease together with the farming utensils all of which bequest is subject to the contingency afaresaid and such other stipulations as are here in after named.

I also give to my son Harris Usher one hundred and fifty dollars and direct his claim against me to be promptly paid in cash.

I also give and bequeath unto my son Asher Usher one hundred dollars.

I give and bequeath to my daughter Lydia Smith twenty-five dollars.

I also give and bequeath to my daughter Susan Cousins five dollars. But in case she should come to want, it is my request that my sons inheriting the home farm should provide for her if in the state of widowhood.

I also give and bequeath to my daughter Wealthy Stearns twenty-five dollars.

I also give and bequeath to my daughter Julia Gage in addition to my account against her and her present husband three hundred and fifty dollars being the amount due her.

I also give and bequeath to my daughter Mary Maria Vickers one hundred and fifty dollars, to be applyd for the support of herself and two children and so long as her husband shall cease to provide for her support it is my will that she should have a lein upon my home farm for support beyond her ability to provide. And I further direct that all property not herein specifyed belonging to me at my decease be sold by my Executors and apply as payment of my debts and I further direct that no legacies herein specifyed be paid by my Executors in property at a fair valuation at such times. (A such) times as they shall be able to **without** safe of the home farm. And I hereby nominate and appoint Elias Usher and Anson Usher my executors of this my last will testament and hereby revoking all former wills by me made.

In **witness** whereof I hereby and hereunto site my

hand and seal this 18 day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty.

Signed sealed published as directed by the above named Watrous Usher to be his last will and testament in the presence of us who have herewith subscribed our names as witnesses in the presence of the testator

Luther M. Parsons
J. F. Butler
John Ames.

Watrous X Usher Seal
(his mark)

ELIAS P. USHER (1804-1800)
and
The Sixth Generation

The sixth generation of this Usher family should describe the children of Watrous Usher (1780-1840) and Welthy Morgan Usher (1779-1851). The 1830 census of Olmstead Township, Cuyahoga County, Ohio, lists Watrous Usher and his family as follows:

Males:
- 1 between the ages of five and ten,
- 2 between the ages of ten and fifteen,
- 2 between the ages of twenty and thirty,
- 1 between the ages of thirty and forty.

Females:
- 1 between the ages of ten and fifteen,
- 3 between the ages of fifteen and twenty,
- 1 between the ages of thirty and forty.

According to the record of the will of Watrous Usher his children were eleven in number:

(1) ELIAS P. USHER was born December 20, 1804 in Chenango County (now Madison County) New York as the eldest son of Watrous and Wealthy (Morgan) Usher. When the Watrous Usher family moved from New York to Cuyahoga County, Ohio in the early 1820's Elias was a young man in his teens. On May 4, 1827, in the town of Ridgvill, Loraine County, Ohio he was married to Margaret Keeler. Margaret was born on January 10, 1803 in the town of Ferrisburgh, Addison County, Vermont. In 1827 Elias was listed as one of the overseers of the poor in Cuyahoga County.

In the 1850's Elias P. Usher was recorded as a township trustee and the 1850 census of Cuyahoga County shows that he was a 45-year-old farmer, born in New York, and owner of real estate valued at $2,200. This value was high compared to most listed in that census. That record shows that Elias and Margaret (Keeler) Usher had seven children in their household. They are described in the following chapter.

The 1870 census of Wisconsin shows E. P. Usher as a 65-year-old farmer in Wayne Township, Lafayette County, with real estate valued at $4,600 and personal property valued at $500.

According to information engraved on grave markers in a cemetery three miles south of South Wayne, Wisconsin, Elias P.

Usher died February 17, 1880 at age 75 years, one month, and twenty eight days. Margaret's marker shows that she died January 22, 1894 at 91 years and 12 days of age. Elias P. and Margaret (Keeler) Usher and their children were in the first generation of this Usher family to move from Ohio to Wisconsin. Only our imaginations can help us to appreciate the courageous efforts of these people in making such a move.

The other children named in Watrous' will were:

(2) Anson Usher who died March 9, 1870 at age 64.

(3) Mary Maria Usher married James H. Vickers on September 16, 1831. Their children were Lydia Ann (1832-1851) Ann, and Olivia.

(4) Wealthy Usher, born March 17, 1810 in New York, married Elijah Stearns on April 22, 1831. She died July 13, 1851. The Sterns children were:

1. Mary Stearns, 1832
2. Usher Stearns, 1834-1861
3. Asher Stearns, 1836
4. Loring Stearns, 1838
5. Orfela Stearns, 1840
6. Elijah Stearns, 1842
7. Casius Stearns, 1844
8. Ferdenand Stearns, 1846
9. William Stearns, 1848-1861
10. Britz Stearns, 1849

(5) Julia (Usher) Gage

(6) Susan (Usher) Cousins, died in 1841

(7) Lydia (Usher) Smith, died in 1840

(8) Asher Usher

(9) Harris Usher married Azuba Beach on June 16, 1833. He died in 1848.

(10) William Usher was born in 1825

(11) Ester Usher

Elias P. Usher and Margaret (Keeler) Usher

MOSES USHER (1835-1918)
and
The Seventh Generation

The seventh generation of the Usher family describes the children of Elias P. Usher (1804) and his wife Margaret (1803) all of whom were born in Cuyahoga County, Ohio.

(1) Washington Usher, born April 27, 1826, was married to Fanny, who was born March 30, 1830, and died June 15, 1859. His second wife was Julia, born February 24, 1824, and died March 22, 1875. Two of his children were:

(i) Charles W. Usher, born about 1853, married in 1883 to Emma Nelson and was living at Madison, South Dakota in 1915;
(ii) William Samuel Usher, born about 1856.

This information was gained from the 1860 and 1870 Census records which showed Washington Usher as a farm laborer. The 1850 Ohio census showed him as a carpenter. The 1880 Lafayette County, Wisconsin census shows that Washington's wife was Hattie, born about 1837. Also, the cemetery marker near South Wayne, Wisconsin shows his wife as Harriet, born August 2, 1837, and died February 20, 1911. Washington died March 10, 1904.

(2) Elijah S. Usher, born about 1830, was listed in the 1880 census of Lafayette County, Wisconsin, with his wife Lucinda, born about 1840 and these children:

(i) Fred E. Usher, born about 1860;
(ii) Eugene D. Usher, born about 1862;
(iii) Lilian R. Usher, born about 1867;
(iv) Corena M. Usher, born about 1870;
(v) Alice M. Usher, born about 1877; and
(vi) Clarence J. Usher, born about 1879.

(3.) Samuel William Usher, born February 17, 1833 at Olmsted Falls, Ohio, moved to South Wayne, Wisconsin in 1857, where two years later he was married to Phoebe Jane Spokesfield. To this union were born nine children, two of whom died in infancy. During the winter of 1875 the farmers of Wayne and Gratiot, Wisconsin united and formed a fire insurance company called "Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Wayne and Gratiot." Samuel W. Usher was secretary of the company.

In 1897 Samuel Usher, with his family, moved to Park Rapids, Minnesota. After seven years there they moved to Washington and resided in the vicinity of Wenatchee until his death on September 16, 1910. The seven children who grew to adulthood were:

1. Edith, who became Edith Snider Garrison of North Dakota.
2. Grant Usher, born about 1864, a resident of Superior, Nebraska.
3. Anna E. Usher, born about 1866 became Mrs. Anna Jenkins of Columbus, Georgia.
4. Hattie B. Usher, born about 1867, became Mrs. Hattie Mullen of Chicago.
5. William H. (Harry) Usher, born about 1872, resided at Riverside, Washington.
6. John Usher, born about 1876, was a resident of Wenatchee, Wahington.
7. Margaret Usher, born about 1879, became Mrs. Margaret Peloquin of Malaga.

In the Blaisdell cemetery near South Wayne, Wisconsin, are markers for: Alice, died March 8, 1860, at age 1 month and 4 days. Mary died April 29, 1872, at age 2 years and 4 months. These were children of S. W. and P. J. Usher.

The 1880 census taken at South Wayne, Lafayette County, Wisconsin, shows the names of thirty-four Ushers on one page. They are:

NAME	AGE
Margaret Usher	77
Sarah	41
Washington	52
Hattie C.	42
Charles W.	26
William S.	23
Elijah S.	50
Lucinda	40
Fred E.	20
Eugene D.	18
Lilian R.	13
Corena M.	10

Alice M. 3
Clarence J. 1
Samuel W. 47
Phebe J. 40
Grant 16
Anna E. 14
Hattie B. 13
William H. 8
Jonathan 4
Margaret 1
Moses C. 45
Ada M. 36
Elias W. 13
Julia M. 12
Charles E. 9
Josephine E. 8
James D. 5
Mabel M. 3
Sarah M. 1
John M. 36
Harriet E. 31
Mark 2

Moses Cleveland Usher

(4) MOSES CLEVELAND USHER, born August 16, 1835 at Olmstead Falls, Cuyahoga County, Ohio, and the one of special interest in this seventh generation, was listed as a farmer in the 1880 census record of Lafayette County, Wisconsin. He and his wife, Ada or Adeline M. (Wright) Usher, who were married March 4, 1865, had seven children in their household in 1880. Two were added later.

Adeline Melissa (Wright) Usher

Adeline Melissa Wright was born May 14, 1843 at Chagrin Falls, Cuyahoga County, Ohio as the second child of Reverend Charles F. Wright and Thirza G. (Hallock) Wright. Her mother, Thirza, was born January 26, 1821, as the second of thirteen children of John Keese Hallock (1798-1885) and Melissa (Griffith) Hallock (1801-1877). John Keese Hallock was a son of Peter Hallock III and Mary Keese. Melissa Griffith was a daughter of Jonathan Griffith (1771-1851) and Thirza (Allen) Griffith. A more complete description of these New York families is presented in a later chapter, but it is interesting to note how these family names of Keese, Hallock, and Thirza were handed down through the Usher family to the children of Moses and Adeline (Wright) Usher.

Adeline (Wright) Usher was described by her daughter, Alta, and by her granddaughters, Gladys Howery and Bernice Howery, as an attractive small lady with large dark eyes. She attended an exclusive girls' college in Rockford, Illinois and was a teacher in Lafayette County, Wisconsin.

Adeline Melissa Wright

For many years she was attracted to a well-to-do young man, Buser, in Warren, Illinois, but after a spat with him she turned to Moses Usher and chose the life of a farm wife and mother of nine children. She reared a fine family of four sons and five beautiful daughters.

Reverend Charles F. Wright was born in Camfield, Trumbull County, Ohio on March 9, 1814 as a son of Reverend William H. Wright and Almira (Durham) Wright who were married in Trumbull County, Ohio December 12, 1813. Rev. Charles Wright began his ministerial work in Rockford, Illinois in 1847 and entered the Rock River Conference of the Methodist Church in 1850. He was a minister at Chemung, Kanesville, Kingston, Marengo, Rockton, Lodi, Warren, Lighthouse, Lec Center, and at various

other points in Jo Davies County, Illinois. (A following section contains copies of letters written by Thirza (Hallock) Wright in 1853 and 1854 describing the living and working conditions of those years.) His wife, Thirza, died at Rockton, Illinois in 1857.

On July 15, 1857 Reverend Charles F. Wright was married to Amelia Carter in Winnebago County, Illinois. The 1860 census of Jo Davies County shows that Charles F. Wright was a Methodist clergyman, age 46, living in Warren, Illinois with his wife Amelia, age 29 and his daughter, age 19, who was teaching school. That 1870 census shows Wilbur Wright, age 30, as a clerk in a lumberyard at Warren. His wife, Eleanor, age 30, was born in England. Their children were Thomas, age 5, and Pearly, age 3.

In 1868 Rev. Charles F. Wright moved to Minnesota and organized the first church and Sabbath School in Lynd, Lyon County, Minnesota, fifty-eight miles west of Redwood Falls, Minnesota. He served at both of these locations and sometimes walked from one to another across the prairies. He was beset by paralysis in December, 1869 and when able he continued to preach from a chair in his own cabin, until he died at Redwood Falls on October 5, 1871, at the age of 57 years, 6 months, and 7 days.

Rev. Charles F. Wright

In the obituary it is stated that his widow remained at Redwood Falls. This must have been a third wife. (See account in a following section.)

Charles F. Wright and Thirza G. Hallock were married in 1838. For a period of time they lived near Warren, Illinois. They had three children:

(i) Wilbur Wright, born in 1840 and died in 1880. He, with his wife Nellie, and three children lived near Warren, Illinois;
(ii) ADALINE WRIGHT, (1842-1895) described above; and
(iii) Julia Wright.

Thirza (Hallock) Wright died at Rockton, Illinois in February, 1857.

Moses and Adeline (Wright) Usher, who were married March 4, 1865, owned a farm three miles south and two miles west of South Wayne, Wisconsin. Also, on Usher property was built a Methodist Church. The writers of this account visited with Herman Krupke in South Wayne in January of 1976. Herman said that his father purchased the farm from Moses Usher. Herman Krupke was born there, he now owns the farm and his son lives there. He said that the Krupkes added to the original house in order to accommodate thirteen children and two grandmothers. Mrs. Krupke related the story told by Herman Krupke's mother: she said that when the Krupkes awoke the first morning after occupying the Usher farm, it appeared that the Ushers had left a colorful curtain or blanket hanging at the attic window in the barn. When they went to the barn, they found that a peacock was sitting at the window.

Vera (Usher) Nelson, when told this story in 1976, said that her father, who was the oldest child of Moses and Adeline Usher, used to tell about the wild peacocks in that area.

Mrs. Herman Krupke said that there is still a row of lilac bushes on the farm which was planted by Adeline (Wright) Usher.

The Moses Usher farmstead was located only one mile from the Illinois state border and only a few miles from Warren, Illinois, the area where the Wright family had some roots. At one time the Usher farmstead was served by the Warren, Illinois rural mail service.

The parents of Moses Usher — Elias P. Usher and Margaret Usher — have their grave markers in a cemetery just two miles east of the Usher farm. Sarah J. Usher, a sister of Moses Usher, and Washington, a brother, were also buried in this cemetery. Other Usher markers are there too.

In 1976, there were no Usher names listed in the telephone directories in Gratiot or South Wayne, Wisconsin.

Adeline (Wright) Usher died on September 15, 1896 at Nora, Illinois, shortly after her daughter Mable, died of diphtheria. Vera Adeline (Usher) Nelson of Stuart, Nebraska and Ida Grove, Iowa, a daughter of Elias Wright Usher and a granddaughter of Moses and Adeline, remembers Grandpa Moses Usher as a handsome or beautiful man with a white beard. After the death of Adeline, Moses spent some time living with his children.

Wanda (Usher) Miller of Mitchell, South Dakota, in 1976 told of her remembrances of her father's, John Kesse Hallock Usher's, accounts of his parents — Moses and Adeline (Wright) Usher. John was only fourteen years of age when his mother died.

Following this section, is a copy of the contents of a letter written by Adeline (Wright) Usher a short time before her death.

It seems that the Ushers must have moved to Wisconsin in the 1850's and farmed there until about 1894 or 1895, then moved to Nora, Stephenson County, Illinois. After Adeline's death and in some of the years between 1905 and 1910, Moses lived in the Delmont, South Dakota area where some of his children had settled. He returned to the Rockford, Illinois area in about 1910 and in the later years of his life he resided with his son, James D. Usher of Rockford.

The obituary states that funeral services for Moses C. Usher who died June 29, 1918, were conducted at Rockford by Reverend Chasteen Smith and the remains were taken to the Blaisdell cemetery south of South Wayne, Wisconsin. Interment was made in the family lot beside his wife whose funeral was conducted about 22 years earlier.

(5) Sarah J. Usher, was born August 18, 1838, and died May 4, 1898. There is evidence that she never married. Her grave marker is near those of her parents in the South Wayne, Wisconsin cemetery. She was known as Aunt Jeri.

(6) Mary E. Usher, born in 1841 and died in 1923. Alta referred to this one as Molly, who married A. R. Eastman (1836-1914), of South Wayne. Their grave markers can be found in the old McKnight cemetery south of South Wayne, Wisconsin. Also in the same cemetery area are found markers for:

Rose B. Eastman	(1866 - 1945)
May Eastman	(1873 - 1925)
Charles L. Eastman	(1876 - 1949)
LeRoy E. Eastman	(1877 - 1939)
Robert Eastman	(1881 - 1922)

John M. Usher Family. Seated left to right: John M. Usher, Grace Garfield Usher, Harriet Elizabeth Usher, Earl Usher. Standing: Eleanor Mary Usher, Mark Usher, Catherine Usher (parents died and she lived with John Ushers), Robert Usher.

(7) John Mitchell Usher was born February 19, 1844 in the town of Olmsted, Cuyahoga County, Ohio, to Elias P. and Margaret (Keeler) Usher. In 1874 he was married to Harriett E. McGinley, born about 1849. The 1880 census records show that John M. and Harriett (McGinley) Usher with their two-year-old son, Mark E. Usher, were living in Lafayette County, Wisconsin. This is the Mark Usher who, with his wife, Effa, and son, Albert A. Usher, moved to Douglas County, South Dakota with his cousin, Elias Wright Usher and family before 1905.

According to information in a letter written by Grace Garfield Usher, one of the daughters of John M. Usher, to one of Mark's daughters — Frances Brown — in 1956, John Mitchell Usher and his brother Samuel instead of traveling from Ohio to Wisconsin

with the other members of the family, drove through by themselves. She wrote that her father told of camping one night in the little hamlet of Chicago on the shores of Lake Michigan.

The five children of John Mitchell Usher and Harriett E. (McGinley) Usher were Mark, Eleanor, Robert J., Grace and Earl.

(i) Mark Elias Usher was born about 1878 to John M. Usher and Harriett E. (McGinley) Usher. His mother was a daughter of immigrants from Ireland and her father was a Methodist circuit rider. Mark was married to Effa Hale, a daughter of Ernest and Mary (Collins) Hale of South Wayne, Wisconsin. Effa Hale's sister, Emma Hale, married James Dickens Usher a cousin of Mark E. Usher.

Mark and Effa Usher moved to South Dakota before 1905 and lived most of their married lives near Mission, South Dakota. Their children were:

1. Infant daughter, born October 5, 1901 died at the age of one day.

2. Albert Almore Usher was born September 22, 1903 and died October 7, 1943. He was married to Hattie Stover and their children were:

a. Dean Emerson Usher, married and had seven children

b. Dorothy Yvonne Usher took the married name of Arnold. She had a daughter, Susan Arnold, born June 14, 1959.

c. Ila Mae Usher, married a Mr. Peil and had daughters Carlotta and Marcene Adile.

d. Vendla Elain Usher married a Migl and had children named Dana and Melanie.

e. Larry Usher had six children.

f. John Almore Usher had three children.

g. Frances Winifred Usher, with the married name of Coy, had four children: Darwin Louis Coy, born June 15, 1958; Denis Russell Coy, born January 24, 1960; Dana Jean Coy, born September 7, 1962; and Daniel Dean Coy, born September 16, 1967.

3. Frances Eloise Usher, born June 10, 1906 to Mark and Effa (Hale) Usher, was married to Louis Brown. She lives in Rapid City, South Dakota.

4. Mary Harriet Usher, born March 2, 1908, married Miles Sanders. She now lives in Rapid City, South Dakota after a long term of service in County government at Mission, South Dakota and in Interanl Revenue Service at Rapid City.

5. Dorothy Prudence Usher was born July 24, 1910 and died August 5, 1916.

6. Golden Hale Usher, born December 24, 1912, married Catherine Douthit. Golden was an engineer in government service for years before he and his family moved to Lincoln, Nebraska in 1948. They had two sons:

a. Richard, who lives in Lincoln and has children, Scott and Amy.

b. James, a high school student in 1976.

7. Lois Mae Usher, born May 19, 1916, married Frank Wozniak and resides at Rushville, Nebraska. Their children:

a. Alvin Neil died at one year of age.

b. Ivan Lee Wozniak born April 29, 1937, married Jill Jones and they have children: Caroline, Denise, and Dana.

8. Helen Emma Usher, born December 5, 1918, married Bert Schoettger. They lived for a time north of Rushville and they now reside at Chadron, Nebraska.

Their children:

a. Jerry Dole Schoettger, born August 19, 1938 married Geraldine Van Buskirk and had Scott Michael Scheottger, born May 28, 1963; Kimberly Kay Schoettger, born December 13, 1965; and Kirk Ryan Schoettger, born April 4, 1974.

b. Terry Thomas Schoettger was born August 23, 1939 and died December 20, 1956.

c. Bonnie Blue Schoettger, born July 3, 1941 married Mike McKee and had Leslie Renee McKee, born May 25, 1965; Monica Rae McKee, born February 19, 1969; and Shawn O'Brian McKee, born February 15, 1975.

d. Billie Mae Schoettger was born September 20, 1947 and died February 13, 1965.

e. Bert Ivan Schoettger, Jr. born March 6, 1953 married Albina Rose Marie Arnone.

f. Mary Helen Schoettger was born November 21, 1957.

9. Robert Earl Usher, the youngest child of Mark and Effa

a. James Lee Usher — children — Mark and Eric

b. Terry Lynn Usher — two daughters

c. Robert Usher

d. Jeffory Usher — a son and a daughter

(ii) Eleanor Mary Usher, the second child of John M. and Harriett Usher, was born May 15, 1882 at South Wayne, Wisconsin. On August 9, 1912 she was married to Murray Genetho Mason, born at South Wayne on June 15, 1875, to Oscar and Ella (Jones) Mason. Eleanor was the second wife of Murray Mason. He was first married to Mazie McGill and they had two daughters. Murray and Eleanor (Usher) Mason had a daughter Grace Eleanor Mason, who was born July 9, 1913 at South Wayne, Wisconsin, and who married a Mr. Green who lived until 1969. Mr. and Mrs. Green had two sons and two granddaughters.

The Masons made their home at Puyallup, Washington where Eleanor died February 10, 1958 and Murray died June 18, 1970. Their bodies were placed in the Auburn Cemetery at Auburn, Washington.

Grace Eleanor (Mason) Green, in 1977 was living at 15871 Mead McCumber, Sumner, Washington 98390. She is one who contributed much to this account of the John M. Usher branch of the family.

(iii) Robert J. Usher, the third child of John and Harriett (McGinley) Usher, was born on July 10, 1880 at South Wayne, Wisconsin. He became a librarian in Chicago and was later head librarian at Tulane University at New Orleans, Louisiana. He is described in one of the volumes of Who's Who in America. His wife's name was Ethel Mae Wight. He died in 1944.

(iv) Grace Garfield Usher, born on October 26 at South Wayne, Wisconsin, was never married.

(v) Earl Usher, the youngest child of John M. and Harriett (McGinley) Usher, was married to Bertha Murdock of Canada. They had two children, Kathleen and James.

1. Kathleen Elizabeth Usher, born at Wenatchee, Chelan County, Washington on June 5, 1928, went to Honolulu, Hawaii to teach school. There she met and married Bill Lau, who was born July 6, 1928. Their children are:

a. Earl Lau (Kuwipoleimanw) born November 19, 1960.

b. Daniel Lau (Kaiminoawoa) born December 14, 1961

c. Kathleen (Kawehionapua) born February 20, 1963

d. Carol (Kawilookalani) born March 27, 1964

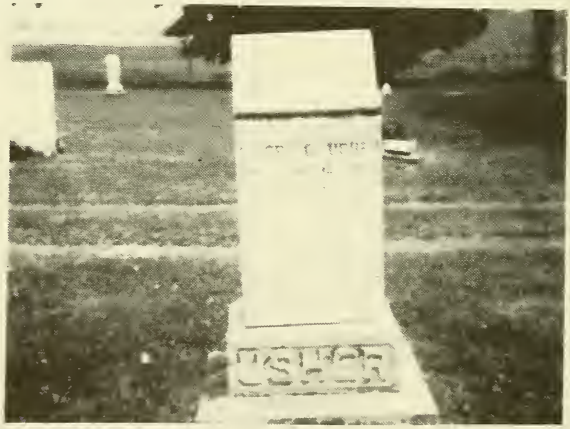
This family lives in Kailua, which is 25 miles from Honolulu on the Island of Oahu. Kathleen and Bill are both teachers.

2. James Murdock Usher was born at Wenatchee, Washington on February 24, 19____.

Earl Usher, the youngest son of John M. Usher, was the one who took over the management of the family apple orchard at Wenatchee, Washington after the death of his father in 1925.

The body of John Mitchell Usher was placed in the cemetery at Cashmere, Washington, the community to which he moved in 1912.

According to his obituary, John M. Usher was a strong member of the Methodist Church into whose ranks he stepped while still a young man. He always took an active part in all church, school and civic affairs, and worked associated himself with movements to



The Usher marker at Blaisdell Cemetery, South Wayne, Wisconsin

abolish the liquor traffic long before prohibition was accepted by the majority as a moral triumph. In the appendix of this account can be found a copy of a letter which he once wrote to the editor of the newspaper in Chelan County, Washington.

According to information contained in a paper prepared by Ellis B. Usher and read at the historical meeting in La Crosse, held at the State Normal School on October 10, 1925, Robert Usher's "descendants began to move West, to central New York, in 1760, thence to Ohio, Indiana and Wisconsin. As early as 1840 there were four brothers of this stock in Lafayette County, and another family in Dane County, Wisconsin."[6]

The early history of Lafayette County, Wisconsin, shows the names of many Ushers, Wrights, and McKnights. Joseph and Lucinda McKnight were buried in a cemetery less than two miles from the cemetery where the Ushers were buried near South Wayne. So, two sets of the great, great grandparents of Edwin Nelson lived and died in this area and can be listed among the early pioneers of the South Wayne community.

Following is a letter written by Adeline (Wright) Usher

Nora Oct. 27th 1895

My Dear Cousin Mary (Sherrard):

I little thought I would have such sad news to write to you. We sold our farm last year in September and the older boys rented their Uncle's farm. Sadie kept house for them while we were there and Mabel lived at home with us but when we moved we thought Sadie had ought to be at school every day so Mabel said she would like to earn some money and she would keep house for the boys until November and then she wanted to begin with the winter term and go to school. She got along with the work nicely and seemed to enjoy it and the boys were good to her and thought every thing of her. She came home almost every week and during the vacation Sadie went there and stayed and Mabel was home a month. She was home when the barrel came and she enjoyed it wonderfully and she took home a lot of Youth Companions she had not read.

My Oldest Daughter Julia moved in with the boys the week

6 The Wisconsin Magazine of History, A Publication of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Joseph Schafer, Superintendent and Editor, Vol. IX, No. 2, December, 1925, p. 173.

before Mabel was taken sick. Her husband went to Dakota. He is an Engineer and a Steam Threasher and yesterday we received a telegram that he had Dyptheria and could not live.

Dyptheria is a terrible disease more to be dreaded than Small pox. I never saw such suffering and there was not one moments rest. Mabel grew worse every moment after she was taken. I hope I never will have to see anyone choke as she did poor child. It was terrible and cannot become reconciled every time I think of her I see her suffering and so patient not a murmur. She just looked so pitiful but she died easy at last.

Sadie is sick with ___ Fever and has been for five weeks. It seems as though we have had more than our share of trouble this fall. In August Johnie was taken sick with Jaundice was sick about three weeks and before he got well Alta fell and broke her arm and then Sadie was taken sick and then Mabel. I shall be so thankful if those that are left can all get well again. But our Circle is broken. It seems as though I never can be happy again. Oh Mary it does seem so hard to give up one of our own dear children and one that seemed to enjoy life so much and seemed to be the making of such a Noble Women. I must stop you will think me foolish but she was a dear noble girl.

Yes Dick (James) is one of our boys. He is some where about Hals age, he will be twenty one in January. He is at home with us. He went to Iowa this last summer and this fall went up into Minnesota. But when we wrote that Mabel was sick he came home and he is going to stay with us this winter any way. I do hope we will not have any more sickness in our family. Our Son in Law is still alive or was yesterday. We dispatched and got an answer. Dyptheria is a terrible disease. I do not know what Julia will do if he dies. She has five nice bright children and no home. They have always rented and worked hard but some way it has taken it all to live as they went along they have both seemed to try hard enough but it is hard work to commence with nothing and get ahead. I have always shared with them when the barrels came so you see your sending things to me has helped a good many. I hope you will get your reward some day if I am not able to pay you with any thing but thanks. Do write to me. I do so love to hear from you.

Good Bye and God Bless You. From your Cousin Ada.

ELIAS WRIGHT USHER (1866-1948)
and
The Eighth Generation

The eighth generation of this Usher family contained the nine children of Moses C. Usher (1835-1918) and Adeline Melissa (Wright) Usher (1842-1895). Their children were: Elias Wright, Julia Mae, Charles Elbert, Josephine Edwine, James Dickens, Mabel Margaret, Sarah Mariah, John Keese Hallock and Thirza Altan. All were born in Wisconsin.

Elias Wright Usher and Bessie Mildred (McKnight) Usher

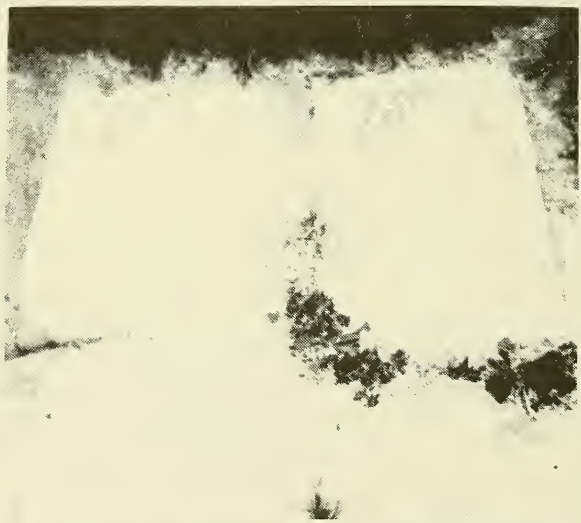
(1) ELIAS WRIGHT USHER, who carried the first name of his grandfather, Elias P. Usher, and the family name of his maternal grandparents, Wright, was known through most of his life as "Lyle". He was born near South Wayne, Lafayette County, Wisconsin on June 8, 1866. The application for his first marriage license, filed in Mower County, Minnesota on February 11, 1896, shows that he was a butcher at Stockton, Jo Davies County, Illinois, at that time. He was married on February 12, 1896 to Bessie Mildred McKnight of Le Roy, Minnesota.

Bessie Mildred McKnight was born in Le Roy, Minnesota, on March 12, 1875, as the fourth of eight children of Joseph and Eliza

Foss (Spokesfield) McKnight. Eliza was born May 24, 1843 at Thornton, New Hampshire to Jonathan and Keziah (Foss) Spokesfield of Thornton Township, Grafton County, New Hampshire. She was probably a granddaughter of John and Betsey Spokesfield of Rumney, New Hampshire. The older Mr. Spokesfield died November 6, 1854, at the age of 97 years, 5 months, and 4 days and the next day Betsey died at an age of 82 years and ten days.

Bessie Mildred (McKnight) Usher's father, Joseph McKnight, was born June 8, 1837, at Wayne, Wisconsin, then a territory, to Joseph McNight who was born about 1799 in Virginia and died in 1855 and his wife, Lucinda (Parks) McNight, who was born in Tennessee in about 1811 and died in 1846.

The Joseph McNights moved to the territory of Wisconsin which included all of the present states of Wisconsin, Iowa and Minnesota and part of the two Dakotas in the 1830's. They were among the hardy pioneers who were attracted to this area which was at the center of a lead mining boom. Some of the miners spent the winters in caves or hurriedly prepared dugouts and were nicknamed "Badgers." The grave markers for Joseph (1799-1855) and Lucinda (1811-1846) can be found in the Eastman cemetery two miles south of South Wayne, Lafayette County, Wisconsin.



Markers for Lucinda and Joseph McNight near South Wayne, Wisconsin

The children of Joseph and Lucinda McNight were:

(i) Emily McKnight, born about 1835;
(ii) Joseph S. McKnight, born June 8, 1837;
(iii) Ellis Joseph McKnight, born about 1840;
(iv) Jerusha McKnight, about 1842; and
(v) Andrew J. McKnight, born about 1844.

The 1850 census listed Susan instead of Lucinda, who had died in 1846, and it listed Caroline Gray, age 2, and a George Pilgrim in the household. Also, these census records indicate that Emily was born in Tennessee and Joseph was born in Wisconsin. So, the McNights must have moved to Wisconsin between the years of 1835 and 1837. (See account of the McKnight family in a following section.)

The 1880 census listed Jerusha living in the home of Joseph McKnight (probably her brother) and serving as a teacher in Le Roy, Minnesota.

Joseph S. McKnight

Joseph McKnight (1837-1908), Bessie's father, was reared on a farm and managed the farm, when he was very young. His mother died when he was eight and his father died when he was about 18. He attended Hillsdale College, Michigan from 1856 to 1861. During that period of time and on October 31, 1858, he was married to Eliza F. Spokesfield. On September 9, 1861, he enlisted in the Fifth Wisconsin Battery Volunteers, as a sergeant and was promoted through ranks to become a captain in 1864. He was breveted major of volunteers for gallant service at Bentonville, North Carolina. He went with Sherman to the sea and participated in the grand review.

In the fall of 1865, Joseph and Eliza McKnight moved to Bennington, Mower County, Minnesota and began the development of a stock and grain farm. Through the winter months, he taught school — two terms at Washington, Fillmore County, and the third term at Bennington. In the fall of 1869 he purchased the interest of R. Hall in the firm of W. S. Coleman and Co., general merchants and lumber dealers, at the village of Le Roy Station. In January 1870 he purchased the Farmers' Warehouse at Le Roy, for his firm. A year later he became manager of one of the firm's stores at Winnebago City, Minnesota, and continued until 1873, when the firm collapsed during a depression. For a year he operated his own produce business at Winnebago City, Delevan, and Spring Valley, but he lost his possessions at the shrine of speculation.

In the winter of 1874, Joseph began reading law, working at the carpenter's trade in summers and practicing in justice court. In a few years he was admitted to the bar in Minnesota and in Iowa and established an office in Le Roy. He was a partner in the law firm with J. F. Trask, E. J. Kingbury and J. S. Bishop until 1895. He pursued this profession with success and profit. He was known as a man who was not obliged to prosecute a client's doubtful case for the sake of pecuniary benefit to himself.

Joseph McKnight, in the spring of 1883, purchased the Le Roy Independent, a weekly newspaper printed and published at Le Roy. He edited the paper for sixteen years until October, 1899, and placed it on a firm foundation. The Independent is still being published at the time of this writing.

The McKnight family held membership in the Baptist Church, where Joseph was a clerk and a Sunday School teacher. Joseph

was a commissioner of Mower County from 1867 to 1870. In politics he was a member of the National Party and he was the National candidate and nominee for Attorney General in 1880. In 1884 he was a delegate at the National Greenback Labor Party convention at Indianapolis, Indiana. Joseph was an ardent supporter of General Butler for President.

Eliza F. (Spokesfield) McKnight and four of her children

(i) Eugene S. McKnight, born about 1867, was married to Frances Wells of Le Roy, Minnesota. Grave markers can be found for this couple in the Le Roy cemetery.
(ii) Nellie E. McKnight, born about 1869, was married to Edward E. Degroff on October 31, 1886.
(iii) Lucinda Maude McKnight, born December 31, 1870, at Le Roy, Minnesota, was one of the earliest woman editors in North Dakota where she was editor of the Cathay Bee at Cathay, North Dakota. She was a person of much ambition who attended Carleton College, taught school for thirteen years, and filed on a North Dakota homestead. On August 1, 1903 she married John Sheard of Humboldt, Nebraska and Wells County, North Dakota.

John Sheard was born September 12, 1848, in Dunfrees, Ontario, Canada to Charles and Eliza Sheard. The older Sheards moved from Canada to the Warren, Illinois — South

Wayne, Wisconsin area in an oxen-drawn covered wagon in about 1850. John was married first to Adelaide Pratt of South Wayne, Wisconsin and to this union was born a daughter, Nettie M., who became Mrs. Fred Wilson of Humboldt, Nebraska. John's first wife died in 1894 and in 1903 he married Lucinda Maude McKnight. John and Maude lived in Humboldt for most of their time together. Their children were Alan and David. Alan Sheard, born about 1909, was living at 8713 Browne Street in Omaha, Nebraska in 1976 after he and his wife resided for some time in North Dakota and Albert Lea, Minnesota. David Sheard has been living in Honolulu, Hawaii for a number of years.

On November 3, 1938, Lucinda Maude (McKnight) Sheard passed away at her home in Humboldt, Nebraska. Funeral services were conducted at the Methodist Church in Humboldt and the body was taken to the cemetery at Le Roy, Minnesota. One month later her husband, John Sheard, died at age 90. His funeral and burial was at Humboldt, Nebraska.

(iv) BESSIE MILDRED McKNIGHT, born March 12, 1875, is the member of the McKnight family who married a member of the Usher family. She married Elias Wright Usher in 1896 and became mother of three children — George, Vera, and Ruth — before her death in 1908.

(v) Dwight J. McKnight, was born October 2, 1877 and died December 19, 1894. His marker is in the Le Roy, Minnesota cemetery.

(vi) Johnny McKnight, was born July 10, 1880 and died August 5, 1881.

(vii) Joseph D. McKnight, was born June 24, 1882. At the time of his mother's funeral in 1930 he was living at Spokane, Washington. He died as a bachelor in 1974.

(viii) Walter W. McKnight, born about 1885, was married in 1907 to Fern Wilbour. He, also, lived at Spokane, Washington in 1930. He had two sons, Lyle W. and Glen, and a daughter. Lyle lived at 2711 East 13th Avenue, Spokane, Washington 99202 in 1976.

Mrs. Eliza F. (Spokesfield) McKnight, the mother of these children lived until January 19, 1930, at which time she died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Maude Sheard of Humboldt, Nebraska. Burial was at Le Roy, Minnesota. Her death certificate,

Eliza F. (Spokesfield) McKnight

on file at Lincoln, Nebraska, shows that she was born at Thornton, N. H. to Jonathan and Keziah (Foss) Spokesfield. Jonathan and Keziah were both born in New Hampshire, according to this record.

Joseph S. McKnight died May 17, 1908, at the Minnesota State Soldiers Home.

Elias Wright Usher and his wife, Bessie Mildred (McKnight) Usher, moved to Delmont, South Dakota, on about March 1, 1905, with their children George and Vera. About two months later Ruth was born there. They lived in Independence Township, section 34, T. 98, R. 63 in Douglas County.

The only other Ushers in Douglas County at that time were Mark E. and Effa L. Usher and their one year old son, Albert A. They lived in Independence Township, Section 28. T. 98, R. 63.

These were the two young Ushers — cousins — who started the Usher move to South Dakota. In the next few years other Ushers came to this area.

Bessie Mildred (McKnight) Usher, the first wife of Elias Wright Usher, died of tuberculosis on November 12, 1908, at the age of 33 years and 8 months. She died at Delmont, South Dakota, leaving her husband and three small children. She was buried in the Delmont cemetery and Evelyn (Bordner) McLaughlin recalls

that she and members of the Usher family decorated the grave on Memorial Day for many years. The grave is No. 7, Lot 4, Range I.

In March 1909, Elias Wright Usher moved with his three children and a hired girl, Hannah Christinson who worked for him for 5 years, from Delmont to Dallas, South Dakota, where he and his brother, Charles, operated a livery barn. They were involved also in showing people to their claims in the newly developing Tripp County, South Dakota. Later E. W. Usher entered into the implement business with his brother, Charles, in Dallas. An ad in **The Gregory County News**, August 31, 1911, contains information about their products: wagons, buggies, Deering and McCormick mowers, rakes, hay sweeps and stackers, manure spreaders, cream separators and a line of repairs and oils. The name of the firm was "Usher Brothers". About a year later it was known as Usher and Hansen. Also, the following article was found: "Lile Usher has been appointed a member of the city council from the third ward to succeed S. E. Winchell, resigned. The appointment was made Monday evening at the regular meeting." June 10, 1913, **The Gregory County News**, Dallas, South Dakota.

In 1913 Elias Wright Usher (1866-1948) married a second time and took Laura Sorensen as his wife. About two years later they moved to a farm seven miles southwest of Dallas, South Dakota. E. W. and Laura (Sorensen) Usher had two children: Lyle and Isabel. Lyle was killed from a horseback riding accident in

Laura (Sorensen) Usher and son, Lyle

September of 1926, when he was twelve years of age. His grave marker can be found in the Dallas cemetery. Isabel, born June 8, 1917, became the wife of Ernie Anderson, who grew up on a farm in the Dallas area. Isabel attended Southern State College in Springfield, South Dakota, and was an elementary teacher before the Andersons and their daughter, Rhonda, moved to the state of Washington.

The writer of this account, a grandson of Elias W. Usher, had the privilege of growing up in the rural South Dakota area not far from the farm home of Grandpa Usher. Grandpa and "Grandma Laura" Usher lived on a well-kept farmstead in a charcoal-colored house which seemed impressive to the grandchildren. During family gatherings, the parlor doors were open showing the luxurious carpet with pretty pattern around the edge. The coal-burning heater with the isinglass windows and the leather covered couch in the dining room are items well remembered. During the winter Grandpa enjoyed sitting in the kitchen, where he could spit tobacco juice into the hot kitchen range. He was a very kind, happy, grandfather who wore a heavy mustache. He enjoyed the family gathering and a good game of pitch.

Everything was always in good order in the barn, where a beautiful team of dapple grey horses had a stall with golden straw bedding. The alfalfa in the hay mow smelled good, the pitchforks were in their places, and the cow-side of the barn was cleaned every morning.

Early in 1975, the writers of this account visited the farmstead which was owned by the Ushers for about twenty-five years. The house, the windmill, the Russian Olive trees and some of the other buildings were still there. The one-room schoolhouse which used to stand about one-fourth mile west and across the road from the Usher house had been removed. Memories recalled the days in the 1920's and 1930's, when children and grandchildren of the Ushers attended this school and carried drinking water from the Usher windmill.

The Lyle Ushers must have enjoyed some prosperous times on this place before the days of the drought, the grasshoppers, the dust-storms and the depression of the 1930's. They remained on the farm until 1941, when Mr. Usher was about 75 years of age. When they left the farm life, they moved to a house in Dallas, South Dakota.

In February, 1936, the following account was printed in one of the local newspapers under a title, 'Lyle Usher Badly Frozen in Blizzard':

> Lyle Usher, residing seven miles southwest of Dallas had a narrow escape from freezing to death in the blizzard on Monday of last week, when he started home from town with a load of coal and his team and wagon became stuck in a snowdrift near the Edwin Dreyer farm. Being unable to extricate the loaded wagon, he unhitched his team and left them in the barn at the Dreyer place and then attempted to walk the remainder of the way home.
>
> Knute Johnson, who lives about two miles from the Dreyer place, knowing that Mr. Usher had gone to town, had been watching for him to return and saw him as he appeared at the top of a hill afoot. Later, when he failed to arrive at the Johnson home, Mr. Johnson went out to look for him and found him sitting in a snowdrift in the bitter cold, too exhausted to go farther and with his face and hands badly frozen. Mr. Johnson succeeded in getting him to his home, where he was given first aid and remained until the following day, when he was able to dig his wagon out of the snow.

Mr. Usher suffered a paralytic stroke in 1943 but lived until April 24, 1948, when he died at the age of 81 years and 10 months. His burial was in the Dallas cemetery. Some years after the death of Elias Wright Usher and in about 1957 his widow, Laura, married Earl Mundorf. The Mundorfs reside at Colome, South Dakota.

Mr. Usher's obituary listed two living brothers: J. D. Usher, of Rockford, Illinois, and J. K. Usher, of Mitchell, South Dakota. Three sisters living: Mrs. Julia Graham of South Wayne, Wisconsin; Mrs. Sadie Bordner, of Highmore, South Dakota; and Mrs. Alta Clikeman of Rockford, Illinois.

In the appendix can be found an account of E. W. Usher as written by his daughter, Isabel.

(2) Julia Mae Usher, the second child of Moses and Adeline Usher, born on the Usher farm south of South Wayne, Wisconsin on March 19, 1868, was married June 20, 1886 to Charles Graham, who was born June 14, 1865. The Grahams lived on a farm about one-half mile east of the cemetery now known by the name of

Blaisdell. In ten years, they had five children, a few farm animals and some farm machinery. Charles did custom wood sawing and harvesting in addition to his farm work. In 1895 the crops in this area were poor so he and some of the neighbors went to South Dakota to work in the harvesting of some good crops in that area. After only a few days there Charles Graham became ill with diptheria and on November 7, 1895 at age 30 he died and his body was buried at Revillo, South Dakota.

Julia was advised by the family to allow the four older children to be adopted out and to move home with the baby. She refused to give up her children as long as she could support them. She and the children worked hard at home and in the employment of neighbors in order to maintain a living. They continued to live in the farm buildings a few miles south of town while the children grew up. Julia must have been a strong woman and a good manager to guide the members of the family to high accomplishments. The children were:

(i) Bernice Graham was born on December 29, 1886. When

Julia Mae (Usher) Graham

she was old enough to go to college she lived with an uncle, John Graham, who was a teacher in the Oshkosh, Wisconsin high school and attended the Oshkosh Normal School for two years then taught school for twelve years. Her first husband died after one year of marriage and after a few more years, she married John William Howery. The Howerys were owners and operators of an implement business which was continuing in Darlington, Wisconsin under the direction of the daughter-in-law at the time of this writing.

Bernice and John had one child, Robert Graham Howery, born February 7, 1919. He was married to Marion Van Meter and had four children:

1. Patricia Howery, born December 12, 1936, was married to Richard Riechling who has a family farming operation near Darlington;
2. Walter William Howery, born August 1, 1938;
3. Franklin George Howery, born May 6, 1940 and
4. Roberta Lynn Howery, born in 1952.

Bernice's son, Robert Graham Howery died on August 15, 1969, at age 50 and recently her husband, John Howery, died.

On June 6, 1976, at age 89, she sat in the living room of her large, beautiful home on East Louisa Street in Darlington, Wisconsin, and visited about the history of the Usher family in Lafayette County, Wisconsin and in the Warren, Illinois area. She reviewed her memories of her grandparents, Moses and Adeline (Wright) Usher and of her great-grandmother, Margaret Usher, who lived for many years as a widow with her daughter, Sarah.

Bernice recalled an apparently well-to-do great aunt, Nancy Campbell, who would send barrels of cast-off clothing and other items to the Ushers in rural Wisconsin. Occasionally, she would come for a visit wearing city clothes and black silk dresses. She would make an impression in the Usher home and especially with the girls. Upon one of her visits she upset daughters Mabel and Sadie considerably when she tired of the country type toilet paper in the outhouse and used some of their favorite embroidered handkerchiefs.

Bernice told of the experiences in the Graham home when she was a girl. Sometimes her mother would borrow a team of

horses and a buggy and take the family for a visit to the home of her grandparents Usher in Nora, Illinois. After Elias Wright Usher and Bessie (McKnight) Usher were married and living upstairs over the butcher shop in Stockton, Illinois owned and operated by Lyle, known by the family as "Lylie," and his brother, Charles, Bernice visited them for a time. She remembers how frightened she was to climb the outdoor stairway without rails to the upstairs living quarters.

Bernice (Graham) Howery, as a great-grandmother, is a sharp, witty lady who holds and shares a fortune of memories gathered through an impressive era of the history of the development of the West.

(ii) Raymond Graham, the second child of Julia and Charles Graham, was born November 21, 1888 and died July 28, 1906. His grave marker is in Blaisdell cemetery, South Wayne, Wisconsin.
(iii) Rex Graham, born September 26, 1890, married Ilene Reardon. They had a son, Jack, who died young, and a daughter, Margaret. Rex lived in South Wayne and died on April 16, 1976.
(iv) Maxwell Graham, born August 21, 1892, was married to Marion Fairchild, who was reported to be a cousin of the wife of President Coolidge. Maxwell was a member of the U. S. Navy in World War I. He and Marion had no children.
(v) Gladys Graham, born November 21, 1894, attended the normal school at Whitewater, Wisconsin, where she lived with a family and earned her way. She taught school for seven years. She was married to David Howery, a brother of John William Howery, who married her sister, Bernice. Gladys and David had one child who died early in life.

In June of 1976, Gladys was living in her own fine old home in the first block south of the business area of South Wayne, Wisconsin. She told of the Howery's General Merchandise Store which was in operation for many years there. After her husband's death, Gladys was invited to work in the South Wayne bank where she was employed until she was seventy-five years of age.

Julia Mae (Usher) Graham, the mother of these five children, died on March 29, 1951 at 83 years of age. Burial was in the

Blaisdell cemetery south of South Wayne in Lafayette County, Wisconsin.

(3) Charles Elbert Usher, the third child of Moses and Adeline Usher, born June 7, 1870, was perhaps the character of the family. He had varied experiences with business, family, women, and travels. At least twice he was a business partner with his brother, Elias Wright Usher. They were partners in the ownership and operation of a butcher shop in Stockton, Illinois in the 1890's. Then from about 1910 to 1913 and after Elias Wright had lived near Delmont, South Dakota for a few years, these same two brothers were in partnership in the livery barn and farm implement business at Dallas, South Dakota.

An article in the Dallas newspaper, dated October 9, 1913, reported that C. E. Usher and family departed for Great Falls, Montana to make their future home. In 1918 he was living in Los Angeles, California and during the later years of his life he was living without a family in the area of Rockford and Rochelle, Illinois. He died on October 3, 1941, at Rochelle, Illinois and was buried in the Usher family lot in the Blaisdell cemetery near

Charles Elbert Usher

South Wayne, Wisconsin. His youngest sister, Alta, remembered in 1976 that "Charlie" was the one who returned home at the time of his mother's death to help to manage the home and the younger children.

(4) Josephine Edwine Usher, born September 19, 1872, married Charles Rockwell of South Wayne on February 18, 1892, and helped to establish their home at Newell Iowa. Their children were:

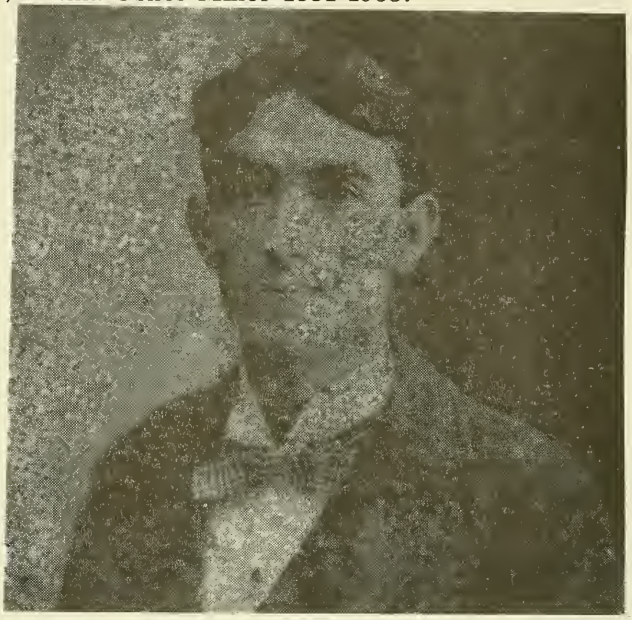
(i) Bessie Rockwell, born November 18, 1892;
(ii) Daisy Pearl Rockwell, who was born July 20, 1894 and died September 16, 1895;
(iii) Leigh Rockwell, and
(iv) Earl Dewey Rockwell, born in 1898.

Josephine Edwine (Usher) Rockwell

(5) James Dickens Usher was born to Moses and Adeline Usher on January 19, 1875. On December 24, 1902, he married Emma Hale, who was an artist who left paintings still in possession of the family. David Clikeman has one displayed in his home in Rockford, Illinois. James Dickens Usher, called Dick, and Emma farmed for some years before Dick was employed at a feed

store. He and Emma had no children. Dick died December 21, 1951 at Rockford, Illinois and was buried in the Blaisdell cemetery at South Wayne, Wisconsin.

Emma, who was a sister of Effa Hale who married Mark Usher, remarried and a few years later died and was buried in the lot near her first husband, James Dickens Usher. Her grave is marked, Emma Usher Miller 1881-1958.



James Dickens Usher

(6) Mabel Margaret Usher, born February 19, 1877, died on October 9, 1895 at eighteen years of age of the dreaded diphtheria. Her death is described in preceding pages in a letter which her mother wrote on October 27, 1895. Her name is engraved on the Usher monument in the Blaisdell cemetery.

(7) Sarah Mariah "Saidee" Usher, born May 18, 1879, was married to Ed Bordner and lived at Delmont and Highmore, South Dakota. They had six children:

(i) Alice Bordner, born July 17, 1908, married Leonard H. Brummel and lives at 4717 Blackthorne Avenue, Long Beach, California. Their children were Carol Brummel, born September 17, 1935 and married to a Skare, and William Charles Brummel, born January 10, 1943.

(ii) Minerva Bordner, born September 3, 1910, married Bill Serr and lives at Armor, South Dakota. They have six daughters.
(iii) Evelyn Bordner, married Kenneth McLaughlin and lives at Highmore, South Dakota in the Bordner home. They had five sons: David (1937); George Edgar (1938-1960); John Paul (1941); Thomas Eugene (1947); and Donald Jay (1953).
(iv) Robert Usher Bordner, born April 1, 1914 and died February 22, 1953.
(v) Charles Howard Bordner, born December 24, 1915 and died June 14, 1951.
(vi) Raymond Bordner, born November 6, 1918 and died January 1, 1972

Sarah Mariah (Usher) Bordner died May 14, 1959, ten years after the death of her husband, Ed Bordner, on March 17, 1949.

(8) John Keyes Hallock Usher was born in South Wayne, Wisconsin, on March 8, 1882 and died July 16, 1962. He moved to Delmont, South Dakota at age 22 and was married to Judith Baker, daughter of James and Sina Baker of Delmont. Judith (Baker) Usher died in 1959. Their children were:

(i) Hallock Baker Usher, born July 22, 1910 and died in 1964. He was married to Marcella Baeth at Ponca, Nebraska. They had two adopted children: Dennis and Teresa. Teresa married Mike Dickens and had two children.
(ii) Wayne LeRoy Usher, a twin, was born June 28, 1912. He

John Keyes Hallock Usher

had two daughters, Jane and Mary. Jane has five children.
(iii) Wanda Lucille Usher, a twin, was born June 28, 1912 and was married to Earl Miller who passed away at Mitchell, South Dakota in 1961. They had two sons: Dick and Dan. Dick, who owns a body shop in Mitchell, South Dakota, has two children — a daughter who is married and lives in Louisiana and a son, Craig, who is a student at Tucson, Arizona. Wanda's son, Dan, lives in Los Angeles, California. Wanda (Usher) Miller lives at 421 S. Iowa Street, Mitchell, South Dakota, 57301.
(iv) John Robert Usher, born August 28, 1921, and his wife operate the Credit Bureau of Mitchell, South Dakota. Their daughter, Janny, lives in Mitchell with her husband and one child. Their son, Bob Usher, is married and lives in Huron, South Dakota.
(v) Constance Mae Usher, born December 6, 1930, married Wayne Laird, and lives south of Mitchell. The Lairds have two daughters and three grandchildren living in Sioux City, Iowa.

John Keyes Hallock Usher was a farmer near Kadoka, South Dakota, and in Davison and Brule Counties, then later in life he worked in Mitchell for the Northwestern Public Service Company.

Thirza Altana (Usher) Clikeman and Sarah Mariah (Usher) Bordner

(9) Thirza Altana (Alta), the youngest child of Moses and Adeline Usher, was born January 26, 1886 and on May 1, 1912 she married Rex Clikeman (1887-1963) of Rockford, Illinois. They had four children:

(i) Charles Clikeman, born September 28, 1913, married Jane Bilger, who was born January 20, 1914. Their children are John Clikeman, born January 4, 1942 and Donna Clikeman, born April 16, 1946. Charles lives at 4701 N. 76 Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
(ii) Vernon Wayne Clikeman, born May 31, 1917 and died September 28, 1974, was married to Dorothy Stouffer, born November 16, 1916. Their children are:

1. Diane, born October 4, 1941 and married to Jerald Kline. Their children are: Ann Elizabeth Kline, born March 20, 1960; Andrew Rex Kline, born August 12, 1961; Michele Renee Kline, born September 15, 1963; Michael Allen Kline, born January 9, 1965; Kelly Kay Kline, born November 9, 1966; and Melinda Sue Kline, born January 30, 1968. Diane remarried to Keith Douglas Miller and had a son, Wayne Miller, born August 26, 1975.
2. Nathalie Clikeman, born October 18, 1944, married Robert Lyford and had these children: Rebecca Lynn, born April 15, 1967; Melissa Star, born December 31, 1968; Sara Louise, born July 18, 1970; and Roberta Sue, born July 22, 1973.
3. Marsha Clikeman, a twin, born January 23, 1947, married Thomas Lyford and had these children: Monica Lynn, born October 6, 1966; and David Thomas, born June 25, 1968.
4. David Clikeman, a twin of Marsha, married Linda Helton and had these children: Christine Ann, born April 12, 1970, and Daniel David, born September 2, 1972.
5. Gayle Clikeman was born April 25, 1952.

(iii) Paul Eugene Clikeman, the third child of Alta and Rex Clikeman was born May 2, 1926, and is living in Rockford, Illinois.
(iv) Arline Clikeman, the fourth child of Alta and Rex, was born August 7, 1927 and was married on February 22, 1947 to

Glen LeRoy Cox, who was born December 21, 1926. Their children are:

1. Candice Cox, born October 31, 1950, married to Robert P. Clark, born September 8, 1949, on May 1, 1971. Candice and Robert have a son born in 1974.
2. Craig Cox, born January 26, 1952, married Cathy Waelti, born September 30, 1952.

On June 5, 1976, Alta Clikeman, at age 90, was very able in describing members of the Usher family. She said that when her mother died, Lyle and Bessie took care of her, then when Bessie died and left small children, Alta took care of Vera and Ruth for at least a year. At that time, Alta was keeping house in South Dakota for her brother, John.

In 1910-1911, Alta was a teacher at Kadoka, South Dakota, while she lived with John who was homesteading there. Those were early times on the South Dakota prairies among the other pioneers. In the summer of 1911, she made a trip to Rockford, Illinois to visit her father. Her father and brother wanted her to stay so she took a test for an Illinois certificate and taught there in the fall, even though the people in Kadoka wanted her to return.

That fall she met Rex Clikeman. They fell in love, were

Ed Nelson visiting with ninety-year-old Alta (Usher) Clikeman at Rockford, Illinois in 1976.

married in May of 1912, and lived on a farm near Rockford happily for more than fifty years before the death of Rex, on July 8, 1963.

At the home of her grandson, David Clikeman, on June 5, 1976, Alta was able to provide the longed-for identification of many old unmarked pictures of members of the Usher family. The pictures brought many vivid memories quickly to her mind and allowed her to be very decisive in her identifications.

During the evening, she visited by long distance telephone with her niece, Gladys Howery of South Wayne, Wisconsin. Gladys is one of the daughters of Alta's sister, Julia (Usher) Graham.

Alta was able to describe all of her aunts and uncles who lived in the South Wayne area when she was a child. A wonderful evening centered on this marvelous little lady ninety years of age, and the last of her generation.

VERA ADELINE (USHER) NELSON
and
The Ninth Generation

The ninth generation of the Usher family is composed of the children of Elias Wright Usher (1866-1948). From his first marriage — to Bessie Mildred McKnight (1875-1908) — there were three children: George Dewey Usher, Vera Adeline Usher, and Iva Ruth Usher. From his second marriage — to Laura Sorensen — there were two children: Lyle and Isabel.

(1) George Dewey Usher was born on December 16, 1898 at Nora, Jo Davies County, Illinois. In 1928 he married Nellie Jones, born September 2, 1909. They established a home in Winner, South Dakota after residing a time at Gregory, South Dakota. Their children were: Donna Mae, DeLoris, Belva Jean, Gerald Dean, and Errol Wayne. George Dewey Usher died on October 12, 1941, at the early age of forty-three years. His grave marker can be found in the cemetery at Winner, South Dakota.

Ruth, George and Vera Usher

The children of George and Nellie (Jones) Usher were:

(i) Donna Mae Usher, born at Gregory, South Dakota on April 11, 1929, was married on September 24, 1949 to Ole Edmond Newman. Ole Newman was born March 16, 1927 at Mobridge, South Dakota, to Ole Martin Newman, born at Hammer, Norway on August 26, 1886, and Adelaide Eleanor Edmonds, born July 25, 1908 at Morewater, Louisiana. Ole Edmond is a U. S. postal carrier, a commercial pilot, and instructor, and a meteorologist. He plays guitar and violin for a weekend dance band. Donna Mae (Usher) Newman is a homemaker and a teacher of piano and organ. The Newmans live at Mobridge, South Dakota and are the parents of five children:

1. David Ole Newman, born August 13, 1950 at Mobridge, South Dakota, is a drummer for a traveling dance band. He is married to LaDonna Shaver of Billings, Montana, who had two sons — Kelly and Tommy — by a previous marriage. The children of David and LaDonna are: Dawn Marie Newman, born September 16, 1973, and Michele Renee Newman, born January 26, 1976.
2. Sheryl Marie Newman, born October 15, 1951 at Mobridge, South Dakota, is married to David Vilhauer and lives in Liberal, Kansas. Sheryl, a secretary for National

Picture taken at Winner, South Dakota in 1938 or 1939. The five little children in the front are James Nelson, Belva Usher, De Loris Usher, Gracie Olmsted, and Gerald Usher. Others on the ground are Ruth (Usher) Olmsted, Vera (Usher) Nelson, Isabel Usher, Donald Nelson, and Vern Nelson. The two girls standing are Lou Ann Olmsted and Donna Usher. In back row are George Usher, Clifford Nelson, Grandpa Elias Wright Usher, Grandma Laura Usher, Nellie (Jones) Usher, and Edwin Nelson holding Errol Wayne Usher.

Beef, and David, a spray pilot and employee of National Beef, have a daughter, Gretchen, who was born September 25, 1976.

3. Brenda Nell Newman, born February 2, 1955 at Mobridge, South Dakota, is married to Edward G. Kroft who works for the Montana-Dakota Power Plant at Mobridge. Brenda is a teller at the First National Bank at Mobridge. Their daughter, Heather Dawn, was born June 26, 1975.

4. Stanley Lyle Newman, born March 21, 1954 at Mobridge, South Dakota, was married on August 28, 1976 to Wanda Mattison. Stanley is a photo processor at the United States Air Force.

5. Bradley Edmond Newman, born January 15, 1959 is a high school student at Mobridge, South Dakota.

(ii) DeLoris Katie Usher was born at Gregory, South Dakota, on December 22, 1930. She attended school at Winner, Clearfield, and Mobridge, South Dakota, and on September 14, 1948, she was married to Rev. Walter Klipp at Carter, South Dakota. Walter J. Klipp, born to Adolph William Henry Klipp and Maria Augusta (Schacht) Klipp at Wilton Jct., Iowa on April 26, 1921, graduated from seminary in 1945 and was ordained in the Missouri Synod Lutheran Church at Carter, South Dakota. The Klipps have five children:

1. Steven Walter Klipp, born April 26, 1950, was married to Sandra Kay Eddie of Dix, Nebraska on May 10, 1971. Their son, Kyle Allen, was born January 11, 1972. This couple divorced.

2. LaVonne Marie Klipp, born April 5, 1951, graduated from Parks Business College in Denver. On November 29, 1970 she married David Alon Gehrke of Bushnell, Nebraska. Their daughter, Stacia Reneigh, was born September 16, 1971. They live in Greeley, Colorado where David is employed with the Monfort Cattle Company and LaVonne is a dental assistant for Dr. Nick Jamison.

3. Gary Dean Klipp, born February 11, 1954 attended schools at Chamberlain, South Dakota and Kimball, Nebraska. He was an outstanding high school football player. He is employed by Mountain Aggregates at Greeley,

Colorado. On November 7, 1976 Gary was married to Kala Jewell Ryan of Greeley, Colorado. Kala, born May 24, 1952 had two children by a previous marriage. They are Patty Dee Goodrick Klipp, born February 11, 1969, and Bobbie Jo Goodrick Klipp, born May 4, 1973.

4. Dennis Ray Klipp, born April 8, 1955, is a student at Arizona State University, Tempe, in the study of business.

5. Kendra Kaye Klipp, born January 27, 1958, attended schools at Kimball and Republican Valley-Indianola, Nebraska and graduated from high school in 1976. She is employed by Horton Typewriter Co. in McCook, Nebraska. She has talent and interest in art and interior decorating.

Rev. and Mrs. Walter Klipp live at Route 3, McCook, Nebraska where Rev. Klipp has the parish at Ash Creek and interim pastorates at Culbertson and Palisade, Nebraska, and Oberlin, Kansas.

(iii) Belva Jean Usher, the third child of George and Nellie (Jones) Usher, was born January 8, 1933. She was married September 21, 1953 to Earl Gene Landis who was born June 1, 1930. Belva has been in nursing and Earl a field superintendent now at Sussex, Wisconsin. Their address is P.O. Box 46, N 66 W 24034 Chompeny Road, Sussex, Wisconsin, 53089. Their children:

1. Bruce Todd Landis, born June 12, 1954, is a student at the University of Wisconsin.

2. Paulette Anne Landis, born July 16, 1955 is also a student at the University of Wisconsin.

3. Brian Jay Landis, born April 19, 1960 is a student at Hamilton High School.

4. Kristin Margurette Landis, born November 28, 1961, is a student at Hamilton High School.

(iv) Gerald Dean Usher, the fourth child of George and Nellie (Jones) Usher, was born on August 29, 1935. On February 15, 1958 he was married to Rhea Kay Johnston who was born February 17, 1936. Gerald and Rhea and their family live at 639 Washington St., Grant, Nebraska 69140, where Gerald is an insurance broker. Their children:

1. Kathleen Rae Usher, born April 26, 1959.
2. Marcy Jo Usher, born January 8, 1962.
3. Allison Kay Usher, born September 23, 1964.

(v) Errol Wayne Usher, the youngest of the children of George and Nellie Mae (Jones) Usher, was born June 28, 1937. He and his family live at 3504 Cimarron Trail, Fort Worth, Texas, 76116. Their children:

1. Dawn Marie Usher, born July 18,1960.
2. Mark Wayne Usher, born February 10, 1964.
3. Debra Ann Usher, born July 23, 1966.

(2) VERA ADELINE USHER was born on October 10, 1901 in Lafayette County, Wisconsin. When she was three years old her parents moved to Delmont, South Dakota and when she was seven years of age her mother died. For some time she and her brother and sister lived with relatives. Their Aunt Alta helped to

Vera and Ruth Usher

mother Vera and her sister Ruth for nearly a year, until their father and a hired girl moved them to Dallas, South Dakota, where Elias Wright Usher entered business.

When Vera was about twelve years old, she was blessed with a step-mother, Laura Sorensen, and when she was about fourteen, the family moved to a farm southwest of Dallas. Vera was the outdoor girl who helped her father and her brother with the farming.

Vera finished her seventh grade of school in Dallas and her eighth grade in the rural school southwest of Dallas. In the fall of 1917 and again in the fall of 1918 she enrolled at the Normal School at Springfield, South Dakota. Each fall she stayed only two or three months before withdrawing. In those days Springfield was a long way from the Dallas farm and Vera became homesick and returned home. She admits, too, that she was lonesome for a neighbor boy who became her husband on New Year's Day of 1921. She married Clifford Nelson who was born on August 11, 1901.

There is a story told and well remembered about the day when Clifford's father sent him to the neighbors — the Ushers — to borrow a piece of machinery. He didn't return as soon as his father thought he should, so his father went to look for him. When he found that Clifford was assisting Vera and Laura with the wallpapering, the blue smoke began to roll. Clifford was only trying to be a helping neighbor, but father didn't seem to understand.

Clifford was the oldest child of Peter T. Nelson (1876) and Sophia Schunneman (1882). Peter T. Nelson, who had the name of Per Nilsson when he was born to Trued Nilsson (1825) and Olu Olasdotter (1833) in Sweden, came to the United States when he was about seventeen years of age.

Clifford Nelson's mother, Sophia Schunneman (1882), was a daughter of Hans Christian Schunneman, who came to the United States from Denmark. Sophia's mother also came from Denmark but died when Sophia and a brother were small children. The brother was adopted by another family and Sophia was reared by her father and his second wife to whom were born ten more children. Mr. Schunneman was a carpenter, cabinet maker, and farmer who spent the later years of his life in Platte, South Dakota, where he had a cabinet shop.

Mr. and Mrs. Peter T. Nelson built two homesteads in South Dakota during some prosperous years. They had six children:

(i) Clifford Nelson, born in Charles Mix County, South Dakota, August 11, 1901;
(ii) Oliver Nelson, born in 1902, married Helen Stone, and had two children, Thelma and Robert;
(iii) Benjamin Nelson, born in 1904, married Goldie Wood and had a son, Wellmon;
(iv) August Nelson, born in 1906, married Velma Roberts and had two sons, Virgil and Robert;
(v) Esther Nelson, born in 1908 and married to Ray Zimmerman of Colome, South Dakota; and
(vi) Leonard Nelson, born in 1914, married Dorothy Moffit, and after her death married Reta Moffit and had three children: Marjorie, and twin sons Dean and Dale.

Clifford Nelson and Vera Adeline (Usher) Nelson established themselves on a quarter section of farm land when they were married in 1921. They built a 12-foot by 12-foot tar-papered house as a starter and added rooms when the harvests were in and the children were born. In these early years, Cliff and Vera took pride in their progress and in gathering of fine teams of horses, good farm equipment and a new Model T Ford. Unfortunately, the era of depression arrived when South Dakota farmers lived through trying times of low prices, drouth, duststorms, and grasshoppers.

This was a time when this couple must have had deep concern for the welfare of the family and perhaps it was because of their real concern for a growing, happy family that the parents did not display the attitude of depression. Also, it might have been partially because all of the neighbors were in the same condition and attempted to keep the community alive.

The families worked very hard and looked forward to occasions of community gatherings, picnics, and barn dances for entertainment. The children walked to the country one-room school houses and the Nelson children seemed to have positive, healthy attitudes toward their learning experiences.

Their children were Edwin Clarence, born in 1922; Vern LeRoy, born in 1923, Donald Clifford, born in 1926; and James Leonard, born in 1935. The three oldest were born near Dallas, South Dakota, and James was born near Bassett, Nebraska. The

Clifford and Vera Nelson and four sons

Nelson family moved to Nebraska in about 1934 and lived on rented farms in the Newport and Bassett area while the boys were going through their elementary education in the rural one-room schools. In many of those years, on March 1, the household goods were loaded on the hayrack and the family was moved to another rental farm where the prospects evidently looked brighter.

Some of the uncles and neighbors would help with the moving by driving teams and wagons or riding the horses and helping to herd the cattle. The source of power of the farming was the horse-power and the machinery was the double-bottom plow, harrow, two row cultivator, mower, rake, and a few other implements. The source of cash income was the cream check collected every Saturday night at Newport or Bassett, Nebraska upon delivery of the cream gained from the hand-milked cows numbering as high as seventeen.

The prospects for attending high school seemed beyond the reach of the Nelson boys but in 1936 when Edwin finished the eighth grade, his father bargained with the butcher in Newport for his board so he could attend Newport High School. Mr. and Mrs. Brittel, the butcher and his wife, boarded the son in exchange for some butcher pigs, some home-sawed fire wood, and the help which Edwin could lend in milking the cow and delivering

milk, in half-gallon syrup pails, to the town customers.

The following year Vern finished the eighth grade in the one-room school a few miles north of Newport. The whole family worked in the field through the summer, gained some extra income from the crops, purchased a 1925 Model T Ford, and arranged for the two boys to commute to high school daily. Edwin and Vern graduated from Newport High School and Donald graduated from Stuart High School. Years later after attending schools in Crookston, Nebraska and in Kansas, James also graduated from Stuart, Nebraska High School.

When there may have been prospects for some significant gains in the Nelson farming operation, World War II caused the calling of the sons to service and the scarcity of farm labor, so the Nelsons held an auction and paid off their loans. Clifford and Vera and their youngest son moved to Crookston, Nebraska where Clifford worked in a grocery store through the war years and Vera operated a cafe.

Next there was a move to Great Bend Kansas, then back to Stuart, Nebraska, In Stuart they operated a service station and cafe then started the Nelson Insurance Agency. For many years,

Picture taken January 1, 1971 at the 50th anniversary of the wedding of Clifford and Vera (Usher) Nelson. The three boys in the front row are Jeff Nelson, Kirk Nelson, and Terry Nelson. Others from l. to r. are Vern, Betty (Decker) Nelson, Mike, Pamela, James, Clifford, Vera (Usher) Nelson, Edwin, Avis (Hedrix) Nelson, Donald, Alyce (Kirkpatrick) Nelson, Roger, and Nancy (Brady) Nelson.

and until a short time prior to Clifford's death in 1971, they operated this business with great satisfaction, and with the gathering of a host of customers and friends.

There were dark years, too. In about 1962, Vera developed a back problem which required immediate surgery. After a long period of recuperation and the fitting of a brace on one leg, she gained the ability to get around in the home without the use of a wheelchair or crutches. At this time and at 75 years of age, she is able to live by herself in her apartment at Ida Grove, Iowa. She has a keen memory of people, dates, and events.

Perhaps most of the relatives and friends would have identified Cliff as the person to live one of the longest, healthiest, happiest lives, but he began to fail in the fall of 1970 and died in May of 1971 of cancer. Funeral services and burial were in Stuart, Nebraska.

Vera and Cliff always had a house full of love and care for the family, relatives, and friends. They enjoyed the company of neighbors who would come at the slightest of excuses for visiting and a cup of coffee. They didn't accumulate the kind of wealth to be deposited in the bank, but they always had a treasure of friends.

Iva Ruth Usher

(3) Iva Ruth Usher, the third child of Elias and Bessie Usher, was born on May 10, 1905 at Delmont, South Dakota, and was only three years old when her mother died. On September 21, 1926, Ruth was married to Roger Olmsted of Butte, South Dakota. Roger was born on July 31, 1895 to Mr. and Mrs. Solomon Olmsted. He studied at Norfolk and York, Nebraska Business Colleges and he was a veteran of World War I. He died in January 1945 and left three children.

(i) Vera Lou Ann Olmsted, born in November, 1928, was first married in March, 1947 to a Mawhinney and had three daughters:

1. Tamra Ann, born December 30, 1947, who married Rick Diamond and has two children, Aundrea and Travis;
2. Karen, born August 4, 1949, married Dennis Thomas and had Robin, born August 2, 1965; Denise, born April 10, 1967; Luree, born in 1970; and twins Korie and Keith, born September 1, 1974;
3. Michelle, born November 14, 1952, who married Larry Lettau and had a son Michael Lance.

Lou Ann's second marriage was to Clayton Haley. The Haleys, who own and operate the Warrior Inn in Winner, South Dakota, have two sons: Clayton and Kevin.

(ii) Gracie, born in 1931, first married Bob Eagon and had three children:

1. Paul Daniel, born July 10, 1950;
2. Maria, born December 31, 1951; and
3. Ronald, born September 28, 1953 and died November, 1953.

With her second marriage, to John Gaul, she had children:

4. Gina, born November 1962, and
5. Chris Jay, born January 15, 1960.

Her third marriage was to Phil Vanos. Their home is in Sioux City, Iowa.

(iii) Ronald Olmsted, married Zaida Garcia on October 28, 1967 and had two children: Angela and Gretchen. This family lives in Puerto Rico where Ronald is a government official associated with Customs.

In 1947 Iva Ruth (Usher) Olmsted was married to Chris Walker of Winner, South Dakota. Chris and Ruth lived on a farm for some time, then Chris took employment with the South Dakota Highway Department and they moved to Reliance. To this union was born Elaine in 1948. Elaine Ruth was married to Alan Thomas and had twins; Daniel and Sandra before she and her husband were divorced. Elaine lives in Sioux City, Iowa where she is a teacher of preschool children.

Ruth became ill with cancer of the lungs and died May 6, 1976. The funeral and burial were in Winner, South Dakota on her 71st birthday, on May 10, 1976.

Lyle and Isabel Usher

After Elias Wright Usher married Laura Sorensen, two more Ushers were born:

(4) Lyle Maxwell Usher, who was born in 1914, died as the result of a horseback accident with his farm pony when he was twelve years old. His marker can be found in the Dallas, South Dakota cemetery near the one for his father.

(5) Isabel Delila, born in 1917, attended elementary and secondary schools in the Dallas area and attended college at Springfield, South Dakota in preparation for teaching. She spent many years in the South Dakota classrooms as an elementary teacher. Isabel Delila Usher was married to Ernie Anderson and had a daughter, Rhonda, born July 6, 1947. Rhonda married Delton Almond and had Jeffrey Scott, born January 21, 1966 and Jill Suzette, born August 9, 1968. Rhonda and Delton were divorced and she married Mark Borgmeir.

The Andersons and the Borgmeirs live at Kennewick, Washington.

Rhonda Lee Anderson, daughter of Ernie and Isabel (Usher) Anderson

EDWIN CLARENCE NELSON
and
The Tenth Generation

The tenth generation of decendants of the Ushers in America, include the four sons of Clifford and Vera (Usher) Nelson. They are Edwin Clarence, Vern LeRoy, Donald Clifford and James Leonard.

Edwin C. and Avis (Hedrix) Nelson and Judith and Roger

(1) EDWIN CLARENCE NELSON was born on April 19, 1922, on a farm 8 ½ miles southwest of Dallas, South Dakota. He was the first grandchild on both sides of the family. In the fall of 1929, when he was seven years of age, he and his brother, Vern,

entered first grade in a rural school taught by a very able Indian girl, Effie Kendal. After the second year in school, Edwin was prepared for the fourth grade and was thereby adjusted to his age group. After five more years in more rural elementary, one-room schools, he completed the eighth grade in a school north of Newport, Nebraska.

As salutatorian of his 13-member graduating class of Newport High School in 1940, he was given a scholarship to attend Grand Island Business College in Grand Island, Nebraska. In the spring of 1941, he returned to the Newport community and on November 15, 1941, he was married to one of the Newport teachers, Avis Arlene Hedrix.

Avis was a daughter born to Hiram Dale and Ruth (Butler) Hedrix in Brookpark, Minnesota, on April 27, 1921. Her father, who grew up in Allerton, Iowa, was the son of Reverend Samuel H. and Polly Jane (Baker) Hedrix and the grandson of William and Tempa (Cooper) Hedrix and George W. and Lucy (Bryant) Baker of Grundy County, Missouri. Her mother, Ruth (Butler) Hedrix, was the daughter of George W. and Emma (Hill) Butler and the granddaughter of Joel C. and Susan (Feighner) Butler and John W. and Isabel (McClellan) Hill of Missouri.

Avis moved with her parents, her brother, Duane, and her sister, Ersel, to Kearney, Nebraska, when she was four years old. She attended the Kearney schools and Kearney State College, where she studied to be a teacher of home economics and music.

Edwin and Avis (Hedrix) Nelson moved to Omaha, Nebraska, where Ed became a grocery clerk for the Safeway Company. In the summer of 1942 they rented an apartment in a new housing development in South Omaha. They purchased new furnishings — Table and four chairs, couch, rocker, and a three-piece bedroom suite — for $149.00. The payments were $7.00 per month. This amount, added to the apartment rent of $30.00 per month, was paid from a weekly salary which began at $15.00 and increased to $23.00 per week by the time the furniture was contracted. Before this apartment was rented, Ed and Avis moved with their suitcases from one small efficiency to another, while Ed gained his training in a number of stores and was finally assigned as head checker in the new Safeway store at 24th and H Street in South Omaha.

At about 11:00 p.m. on November 4, 1942, when there were indications of the near arrival of the first-born, Ed ran a few blocks to a pay telephone, dropped a lighted cigarette in his sleeve, as he dropped a nickel in the phone, and called a taxi. (With the joy of investing in apartment furnishings, there was no money to purchase or operate an automobile.) On the afternoon of November 5, at the Immanuel Hospital, Judith Kay Nelson was born.

This event changed Ed's draft classification but not his status and he was soon to be called by the draft board to join the United States army. The Nelsons moved to Kearney to live with Avis' parents until the call came in February, 1943.

After some basic training in the medical corps and a year in the Army Specialized Training Program at Louisiana State University at Baton Rouge, he became a rifleman in the 99th Infantry Division and served in the European Theatre of operations. Avis and Judy lived in Kearney with the Hedrix family, when they were not able to follow Ed to the army camps. Avis worked at the ordinance depot in Grand Island, Nebraska, while Ed was overseas.

In October, 1945, Ed returned to civilian life and in November he and his family moved to Ravenna, Nebraska, where he was employed again by the Safeway Company. The Nelsons owned their first home on Pavia Avenue in Ravenna. It was an old, small, two-bedroom house, without heat or plumbing, which was purchased for $900. Ed and Avis worked hard to improve the house which they enjoyed. While living here, their second child, Roger Lee Nelson, was born on July 5, 1946.

The Nelsons gained many friends in the Ravenna community in those months following the war. Ed became a charter member and commander of the local Veterans of Foreign Wars and Avis became president of the Auxiliary.

In the fall of 1947, Ed qualified for an emergency teaching certificate and he and Avis accepted teaching positions in the Naponee, Nebraska high school. Avis taught home economics and music and Ed taught science and mathematics. Mrs. Walter Post, wife of a schoolboard member, was the baby sitter for Judy and Roger.

In 1948 the Nelsons moved to Riverdale, Nebraska, where Ed

taught a variety of subjects and coached and Avis commuted to Kearney State College to finish her degree requirements. The next year they lived in an apartment in Kearney, while Ed finished his degree and taught half-time and coached athletics at Riverdale. From 1950-1952, they lived in Huntley, Nebraska, where Ed was superintendent of schools.

1952-53 was spent in Amarillo, Texas, where Ed taught at the air base while completing requirements for his masters degree. 1953-56 was lived at Wilcox, Nebraska, where Ed was superintendent of schools and a summer student working on the doctorate at the University of Nebraska. After a superintendency in Red Cloud, Nebraska, from 1956-59, Ed, with a new Doctor of Education degree, accepted a position as Associate Professor of Education at Kearney State College. Two years later they moved to Chadron, Nebraska, where Ed became Dean of the College, then president of Chadron State College in 1967.

In Chadron the Nelsons lived at 711 Bordeaux, 410 West Eighth Street, 223 Bordeaux, then 809 East Fifth Street. From November, 1973 to July, 1975, they resided at 620 Windsor Drive in Lincoln, while Ed served on a leave-of-absence basis as Executive Officer for the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges.

Ed has been active in his profession. In 1967 he was elected to serve as president of the 18,000 member Nebraska State Education Association. He was president of the Nebraska Educational Television Council for Higher Education and he served as chairman of many accreditation teams for the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education. He has been appointed by Governor Exon as a member of the Nebraska Educational Television Commission.

Ed and Avis (Hedrix) Nelson now live in their home at 809 East 5th Street, P.O. Box 858, Chadron, Nebraska, 69337, and Ed is serving as president of the college with an enrollment of 2,024 students in the fall of 1975.

(2) Vern LeRoy Nelson, the second child of Clifford and Vera (Usher) Nelson, was born 8½ miles southwest of Dallas, South Dakota, on November 13, 1923. He was a strong healthy little boy who was soon able to more than hold his own with his older brother. These two brothers were always close in their work, play, troubles and joys through their growing and school days.

Vern was always an excellent student. He was the valedictorian of the 1941 class of Newport, Nebraska high school. He worked for his father, uncle and neighbors in the hayfields and in the hay trucking business until he was drafted into service for World War II. He served in the 10th Mountain Infantry Division in Italy during the conflict.

After his separation from the army, he entered a partnership with Ed and Avis Nelson in the furniture business in Ravenna, Nebraska, for a few months, before he joined the firm of Truesdale Furniture in Broken Bow, Nebraska. Next he entered partnership with his parents in the operation of a cafe and service station in Stuart, Nebraska.

In 1950 he was married to Betty Decker, born in Rembrandt, Iowa, as the sixth child of Ben and Annie (Joachims) Decker, of Linn Grove, Iowa. After attending Kearney State College and working in Joplin, Missouri for a short time, he settled in Ida Grove, Iowa in 1954. After working for an uncle in an automobile agency for awhile, he became very successfully associated with Midwest Industries, Inc. of Ida Grove, Iowa.

Vern and Betty) Nelson had four children:

(i) Rickie Nelson, born March 18, 1952 and died in infancy.
(ii) Pamela Sue Nelson, born May 22, 1953. She attended elementary and secondary schools in Ida Grove, Iowa and Northwestern College at Orange City, Iowa. After being employed for a time at Co-op Inc., Ida Grove, Iowa, she married Kurt Miller on June 22, 1974. She and her husband now live in Iowa Falls, Iowa, where Kurt is Manager of the Kerr Magee Station. Kurt is the son of the late Julius and Elsie Miller of Ida Grove, Iowa. On August 7, 1976, a son, Daniel Curtis Miller, was born to Kurt and Pam Miller.
(iii) Michael Rae Nelson, born May 21, 1955, graduated from high school at Ida Grove, Iowa. attended the University of Iowa and is now a student at Northwestern College at Orange City, Iowa. Mike is an excellent student with work experience on the survey crew for the Ida County Engineer and in the Shipping Department of Vogel Paint and Wax Co. of Orange City, Iowa. He plans to further his study in Christian Education and Social Work.
(iv) Terry Lynn Nelson, born June 22, 1957 at Ida Grove, graduated from high school there and is now a student at North-

Daniel Miller (1976), son of Kurt and Pamela (Nelson) Miller.

western College of Orange City, Iowa. He has been an active, outgoing young man who has taken leading roles in school and church activities. He has major interest in music and athletics. His plans are to further his education in art and music.

Vern and Betty (Decker) Nelson live in a large home at 505 Morehead Street, Ida Grove, Iowa 51445.

(3) Donald Clifford Nelson, the third child of Clifford and Vera (Usher) Nelson, was born on January 13, 1926, on a farm southwest of Dallas, South Dakota. He attended rural elementary schools in South Dakota and Nebraska and graduated as valedictorian of his class at Stuart, Nebraska in 1944.

Soon after completing high school and working on the family farm, he was drafted into the army and served in thePacific Theatre of Operations, during World War II. As a veteran he graduated from Kearney State College in 1952 with a major in business. He worked in the business field in Chamber of Commerce work in Grand Island and Lexington, Nebraska until he decided to teach. After one year of teaching he became superintendent of the Overton, Nebraska Schools in 1954.

On June 8, 1955, he was married to Alyce Kirkpatrick, daughter of F. Glenn and Nona (Peterson) Kirkpatrick of Overton. Alyce was also a member of the teaching profession.

In 1957 they moved to California where Don taught in a junior high school for one year. Then Don accepted a position with Douglas Aircraft, until 1969, when they returned to Nebraska where he was employed by the State Department of Education while he studied for his doctorate. In 1971 Dr. Don Nelson accepted the position of Director of Business Services, Center School District, in Kansas City, Missouri. In 1976 he became Assistant Superintendent of Schools of North Kansas City, Missouri.

The children are:

(i) Jeffrey Alan Nelson, born November 28, 1957 at Apple Valley, California. He was always a good student and was active in athletics and music activities as he attended schools in California, Lincoln and Kansas City. He graduated from high school in 1975 and enrolled as a major in Milling Science and Management at Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas.
(ii) Kirk David Nelson, born November 15, 1959, at Santa Monica, California. He also has been an outstanding student, with an outgoing personality. He has taken part in school activities. Cross country and track are his primary athletic events. But music, both instrumental and vocal, has been his main interest.

Roger, Joyce, Lela (Riblett), Pamela, Judy, Avis (Hedrix), Betty (Decker), Mike, Terry, Clifford, Vera (Usher), James, and Vern Nelson

Don and Alyce (Kirkpatrick) Nelson live at 631 E. 91st Street, Kansas City, Missouri, 64131.

(4) James Leonard Nelson, the fourth child of Clifford and Vera (Usher) Nelson, was born on January 12, 1935 on a farm northeast of Bassett, Nebraska. He attended schools near Stuart, in Crookston, Nebraska, near Great Bend, Kansas, and in the Stuart High School. He was a good student, a trombone player, a Boys' State Representative, and the valedictorian of his high school graduating class.

After graduation from Kearney State College, he married Lela Riblett of Central City, Nebraska, and began his teaching career at Huntley, Nebraska. He taught at Ceresco and Bertrand, Nebraska also, before he accepted a position in the Greeley, Colorado Schools, where he is presently employed.

Jim and Lela have three children: Joyce, Kendra, and Brian Clifford Nelson. They live at 2512-23 Avenue Court, Greeley, Colorado.

Joyce Nelson

Kendra Nelson

Brian Nelson

JUDITH KAY NELSON and ROGER LEE NELSON
and
Their Generation

Judith Kay Nelson

(1) Judith Kay Nelson, the first child of Edwin and Avis (Hedrix) Nelson, was born in Omaha, Nebraska on November 5, 1942. The first few years of her life are described earlier in this account. She was a very bright and attractive little girl who had a variety of experiences and moves in her early months and years. While her father was in the service and she and her mother attempted to live near him, the family traveled with a trunk and a baby buggy. The buggy served as a buggy, a pickup for moving from one efficiency to another, a vehicle for transporting groceries, and the regular bed for the baby.

Traveling by train and bus during the war years is difficult to describe because of its awful characteristics. People would line up in front of doors and gates for hours trying to get access to the vehicles. Of course service men were taken first then others would be allowed to pack on in standing room only. On one trip from Texas to Kearney, Avis and Judy got on the bus and rode without a seat. They were both sick and exhausted before they got to their destination.

After Ed went overseas, Judy and her mother lived with her grandparents, Dale and Ruth Hedrix. 'Nanny' Hedrix was her baby sitter, caretaker and teacher on the days when Avis was working. They were always fond of each other perhaps because of these times together.

Judy got an excellent beginning in her first year of school at Riverdale, Nebraska, with her teacher being Mrs. Neva Nicholarsen. Her first grade was taken in the campus school at Kearney State College, her second and third years at Huntley, Nebraska, her fourth year in Amarillo, Texas, and her fifth, sixth, and seventh grades in the Wilcox, Nebraska, schools. She completed grades eight through ten in Red Cloud and graduated from high school at Kearney in 1961.

Judy studied one summer at Kearney State College then finished a four-year degree three years later, in 1964, at Chadron State College where she graduated with honors. In June of 1964 she was married to Robert Yost, also a graduate of Chadron State College and the son of Millard and Marjorie (Gueck) Yost of Scottsbluff, Nebraska. Robert Yost's father Millard Arnold Yost, was born November 24, 1915, to Fred H. Yost (1888) and Alice (Sheidt) Yost (1891). He died in January of 1975. The other two children and the grandchildren of Fred and Alice Yost are:

(i) Geraldine, born August 17, 1913, and the mother of two sons — David Lee, born April 24, 1942; and Steven Dee, born July 29, 1944;
(ii) Everett, born October 1, 1917, and the father of two children — Kurt T., born July 27, 1948, and Sally Ann, born July 27, 1949.

Judy (Nelson) Yost's husband, Robert Ralph Yost, was born in Scottsbluff on August 19, 1941. The Yosts, with earlier interests in agriculture and in the Platte Valley Paint and Glass Company in Scottsbluff, have now established a chain of Hallmark Card and Party Stores. Judy taught English and mathematics in the Scottsbluff High School from 1964 to 1967 and before the arrival, on August 26, 1968, of a daughter, Robyn Kymberly Yost. The Yosts moved to McCall, Idaho, on June 1, 1972, and Robyn entered the first grade there in the fall of 1974.

Judy was always a very active and involved person with a lot of initiative. She was an excellent student graduating near the top of her class in college and named to **Who's Who in American**

Robert and Judy (Nelson) Yost and daughter Robyn

Colleges and Universities. She carried a double major in English and mathematics and minors in art and music. She was a member of the high school and college bands and music groups as a trombone player and a vocalist. At Chadron State College she was a member of the select vocal group — The Eaglaires. This group toured the Caribbean area one winter entertaining the armed forces while she was one of its members. She was among those recognized by Governor Morrison of Nebraska as an honorary Admiral in Nebraska's Navy.

Judy always had an optimistic and positive attitude, especially about her own abilities. She was never arrogant or boisterous, however, about her achievements. She has the confidence to succeed in anything which she attempts — her studies, her activities, her role as a member of the family, her profession and her responsibilities as a wife and mother.

(2) Roger Lee Nelson, the second child of Edwin and Avis (Hedrix) Nelson, was born at the Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney, Nebraska, when the family lived at Ravenna, on July 5, 1946. A few days after he came home from the hospital he had the whooping cough but he recovered with no complications after his mother went through a few sleepless days and nights. He had the

Roger Lee Nelson

attention of all of the Ravenna friends, until the family moved from that town to Naponee, Nebraska on September 1, 1947.

In Naponee, while his parents were both teaching in the high school, he and his sister were cared for during the days by Mrs. Walter Post. The children attended all the evening school activities. Roger was dressed in heavy clothing and little coveralls and taken to all of the football games before he was two years old. When he was three and lived a block from the Riverdale, Nebraska school, he tried many times to go to the schoolhouse without his mother. He was a friendly and happy little guy who wanted to be with the other kids.

Roger attended kindergarten in the Huntley, Nebraska Consolidated Schools where he was in a room with the first and second graders learning from all three grades. When he was in the first grade, he attended a school in Amarillo, Texas. He attended second, third and fourth grades at Wilcox, Nebraska, and fifth, sixth and seventh grades at Red Cloud, Nebraska.

In spite of the fact that Roger was the cautious one, he was the member of the family who had the accidents. When in the second grade, he was in a bicycle accident which put a foot in a cast for a few weeks. Other accidents took him to the doctors in Red Cloud and Kearney.

While he was in the seventh grade, Roger acquired an interest in athletics which exceeded his interests in the more academic courses. It was not difficult for him to get average grades, but it was difficult for him to understand why he should do any better. One outstanding characteristic developed early in the life of this boy was his sense of empathy for the disadvantaged. He felt for the boy with the crippled hand, the one without a father and the one who couldn't afford to dress as well as the average. He had his feelings, too, about animals which could not defend themselves against inhumane treatment.

Roger enjoyed the fundamentals of football which he learned in Red Cloud under coach Ron Ryne and he gained interest and experience as a quarterback on the junior high school team in Kearney. He decided not to participate in football when he moved to Chadron to enter the tenth grade in high school there. His favorite sport in the Chadron High School was wrestling in which he felt a lot of success and physical development.

While Roger was a senior in high school, in 1963-64, he registered for classes at Chadron State College. He was an ambitious young man who wanted to work and save his money. He had a good record of employment at a variety of jobs early in life. He worked on farms, on heavy construction jobs, as a bellhop in the Blaine Hotel, as a kitchen worker at the Chuck Wagon Restaurant and as a groceryman at the Safeway store, under the management of Virg Irelan, in Chadron. One summer he worked as a filling station attendant at Estes Park, Colorado.

Roger graduated from Chadron High School and enrolled at Chadron State College in 1964. In November of 1965, he volunteered for the draft to the U. S. Army. After basic and advanced training in the Signal Corps, he was assigned to an infantry division which was sent to combat in Viet Nam in 1966. After a year in Viet Nam, during which time he received an award for meritorious service, he was released from the army in time to enroll at Chadron State College in the fall of 1967.

On August 25, 1968, Roger was married to Nancy Lee Brady, a daughter of Maurice Lee and Mickie Gelene (North) Brady, of Imperial, Nebraska. Nancy's father, Maurice, was born June 7, 1927, as the oldest son of Harold and Lois (Van Meter) Brady. He married Mickie, who was born November 27, 1928, to David Michael North and Martha Elizabeth (Holtzman) North, of Holy-

Roger and Nancy Nelson, Angela and David

oke, Colorado. The children of Maurice and Mickie, in addition to Nancy, are Mike, Beverly, Bobby, and Pat Brady. Nancy's father has two brothers: David Harold, born April 22, 1942, and Alan Frederick, born August 5, 1950.

Nancy (Brady) Nelson, born November 27, 1948, had completed her freshman year at Chadron State College when she and Roger were married. They lived in one of the student apartments on campus until Roger completed requirements for his degree in business administration in January of 1970. He accepted a position as teller, then as assistant cashier, at the First National Bank in Chadron.

Roger and Nancy lived in an apartment on West 8th Street,

then in a house at 8th and King Streets, before they purchased a home at 133 Mears Street in 1972.

Nancy graduated from Chadron State College in 1971, with a degree in elementary education. She was the primary teacher in the Whitney School, a few miles west of Chadron, for the school year of 1971-72. On September 1, 1972, she delivered a beautiful daughter, Angela Kay Nelson, born in the Chadron Community Hospital. On June 1, 1974, a son, David Roger Nelson, was born at the Chadron Community Hospital as a large, healthy first grandson of Edwin and Avis (Hedrix) Nelson.

In the summer of 1974, Roger changed positions and became Director of the Northwest Nebraska Health Education Service Center with his office in Chadron. He became involved and active in many of the civic and community activities, such as the Junior Chamber of Commerce; the Lions Club; the American Legion Post, of which he was commander and a member of the Firing Squad; chairman of the local committee to support the auction program for Nebraskans for Public Television; and other fund-raising activities in the community.

In 1976 Roger and his family moved to Grand Island, Nebraska, where Roger accepted a position as accountant at the Nebraska State Veterans Home. Their home is at 2403 West 15th Street, Grand Island, Nebraska.

THE MOST RECENT GENERATION

In the most recent generation and among the smallest twigs on this particular branch of the Usher tree are the three grandchildren of Edwin and Avis (Hedrix) Nelson:

David Nelson, Robyn Yost, and Angela Nelson

(1) Robyn Kymberly Yost was born in Scottsbluff, Nebraska, on August 26, 1968, to Robert and Judith Kay (Nelson) Yost. After the first night home from the hospital and keeping her parents and grandparents Nelson awake, she was a beautiful and happy child. With her mother's full-time attention and encouragement, Robyn talked, counted, colored and grew up in early and rapid stages.

In spite of her cautious and conscientious manner, she fell from the doorway of her parent's camper when she was about three years of age and fractured a leg, but she recuperated quickly. Robyn's grandmother, Avis Nelson, made many 100-mile trips from Chadron to Scottsbluff to enjoy her. It was a sad day when the grandparents learned that Robyn and her parents were moving to McCall, Idaho, because grandparents are like that. It is always a joy to be with Robyn, to hear her voice by telephone and to receive some of her first pictures and writings.

(2) Angela Kay Nelson was born to Roger and Nancy (Brady) Nelson on September 1, 1972, in the Chadron Community Hospital,

after quite a few hours of waiting by her mother. Having been a primary teacher, Nancy began teaching and visiting with this precious little girl immediately. Roger and Nancy brought Angela to Grandma Nelson's house for regular enjoyable visits because they lived in the same town — Chadron, Nebraska. Angela was enjoyed immensely as she revealed all of the beautiful stages of human growth and development.

Grandpa Nelson was given a movie camera by the other half of the family when Angela was very small so she became a movie star early in life. Her grandfather thought that she had unusual dexterity with her little fingers. She walked and talked early in life and took an early interest in books.

(3) David Roger Nelson, the second child of Roger and Nancy (Brady) Nelson, was born June 1, 1974, at the Chadron Community Hospital. This was the first grandson for the Nelsons and the Bradys. While Angela is a very dainty, effeminate little daughter, her little brother is a husky, happy, robust little male. David was able to use a walker only a short time because he was too strong and rough for his own good. Early in life he began to experience falls and bumps, but they interfered with his happy disposition only for short periods of time.

If the early generations of this family were observing from the Heavens, as these particular branches and twigs of this tree have been developing, they must be proud. Perhaps such visions, if possible, would have made some of their severe pioneering hardships seem a little easier to bear.

While reviewing the historical accounts and gathering the facts for a genealogical story of such a family, a researcher gains an appreciation of efforts, difficulties, gambles, speculations, joys and reverences which have been a part of God's plan. It is marvelous beyond the real comprehensions but not beyond the incomprehensible hopes which those ancestors held.

THE HALLOCK FAMILY

The Hallock family and the Usher family were related through the marriage of Thirza G. Hallock to Rev. Charles F. Wright, then through the marriage of their daughter, Adeline Melissa Wright to Moses Usher. The following describes the ancestry of Thirza G. Hallock through eight generations beginning with the Peter Hallock who came to America in 1626.

The Hallocks spelled the family name in various ways through the generations and early years in America. It might be Halliock, Holyoke, Hallioke, Haloke, Halioke, Halliock, Hallocke, Holyocke, Holyock, Hallack, Hallocks, or Halleck, but it all started with Peter Hallock who first appeared on Long Island, New York, where he bought a tract of land from the Shinnecock Indians in 1626.

After two years Peter Hallock returned to England for his family. He had married the widow Howell who was reluctant to move to America, but agreed to do so when Peter promised to give some of his property to her son by a former marriage. In 1640 the Hallocks came to New Haven with the Eaton and Davenport Pilgrims. Peter is said to have been the first of 13 settlers to step on shore of Hallock's Point at Southold when they arrived in 1640. He was the purchaser of lands in the Mattituck, Long Island, area which were in possession of Hallocks for generations.[7]

Peter Hallock, born in England in 1590, and his wife Margaret Howell, had two children: WILLIAM, who married Margaret Howell (1620-1707), and died in 1684; and Abigail, who married Caleb Horton. The children of William and Margaret were:

(1) JOHN HALLOCK, in 1679 married Abigail Swezey, daughter of John Sweezey, who was a neighbor of the Hallocks at West Mattituck on Long Island in about 1675. John Sweezey lived until 1692. The Sweezeys were Friends who had arrived on Long Island from Salem, Massachusetts and William Hallock was a strong Church of England supporter. William Hallock disinherited this son, John, and any others of the family, if they married any Quaker or any son or daughter of a Quaker. Years later one of the grandsons of the disinherited John Hallock gave very small portions to any of his children who married those who were not Quakers.

7 "Refugees Long Island to Connecticut", by Frederic Gregory Mather, Albany, New York, T. B. Lyons Co., Printers 1913, p. 377.

(2) Thomas

(3) Mary

(4) Martha

(5) Sarah

(6) Peter

(7) William Jr., who married Mary ____ in 1688.

(8) Elisabeth first married a Mr. Harrud, and second married Richard Howell in 1675. In that year Richard received from his father-in-law, William Hallock, 150 acres of his Occabauck land and he added another 20 acres to the west of that parcel. The west line of the Howell farm became the dividing line between Southold and Riverhead.

(9) Abigail, who married David Horton.

It appears that the original Peter Hallock in America, his son William and William's son, John, were the Hallocks who owned a considerable amount of land on Long Island. Two of William Hallock's sons-in-law — Richard Howell and David Horton — also had holdings there.

On April 26, 1675, **William Hallioke** gave his son-in-law a parcel of land twenty rods wide from North to South sea "lying and being next unto the lands of William Hallioke on the east side and John Conckline, Jr. on the West side." In the abstract it is stated that Richard Howell "shall not lett or farme said land to any person or persons but to such as shall be approved by the neighbourhood to be honest peacable and quiett, and lastly that in case the said Richard Howell should happen to die without issue that then the said land to fall unto John Hallioke, he the said John Hallioke paying for such fencing, housing as shall be found on said land, judged by two indifferent men of the Town."[8]

It appears, also, that John, a carpenter, and his wife, Abigail (Swazey) Hallock, sold their Southold properties in 1687. John, who was disinherited by his father, William Hallock, because he married a Quaker, later became a Quaker preacher.

John Hallock3 (165__-1737) William2(____-1688); Peter1 (1610-____) of Southold who married Abigail Sweezey (____-1737) in 1679 had these children:

8 "Southold Town Records", J. Wickham Case, Printed by Order of the Towns of Southold and Riverhead, 1884, p. 222.

(1) John, Jr., born in 1680 and married Hannah. They lived at Setauket, Long Island.

(2) Margaret, born 1682, married John Powell, son of Thomas Powell in 1704.

(3) Benjamin married Sarah ____.

(4) Catherine married Thomas Willets in 1706.

(5) Sarah married Richard Willets in 1706.

(6) Mary married Amos Willets in 1713.

(7) Clement married Isaac Willets in 1716.

All four of these Willets were sons of Thomas and Dinah Willets.

(8) Abigail, born in 1688.

(9) PETER, married Abigail Powell, a daughter of Thomas and Mary (Willets) Powell in 1723.

(10) William

As the parents of these ten children, John Hallock died May 25, 1737, and Abigail (Sweezey) Hallock died January 23, 1737, both at Westbury.

Abigail Sweezey (or Swasey) was the daughter of John Swazey, a native of England, a settler at Salem, Massachusetts as early as 1651, and a few years later at Southold, Long Island, New York.

Peter Hallock4 (John3, William2, Peter1)

Peter Hallock was the ninth child of John and Abigail (Swazey) Hallock. In 1723 he married Abigail Powell, a daughter of Thomas and Mary (Willets) Powell. In 1755 these Quakers removed to Nine Partners Monthly Meeting. Their children were:

(1) Moses

(2) Jesse

(3) Thomas

(4) John

(5) PETER, JR.

(6) Zebulum

Peter Hallock, Jr.5. (Peter4, John3, William2, Peter1)

Peter Hallock, Jr., son of Peter and Abigail (Powell) Hallock, married Anna Greene and had:

(1) Isaac, born 1754.

(2) Israel, born 1755.

(3) Abigail, born 1757.

(4) Robert, born 1759 and died 1762.

(5) Ann, born 1762.

(6) PETER III.

Peter Hallock III6, (Peter5, Peter4, John3, Willaim2, Peter1)

Peter Hallock III, son of Peter and Anna Hallock, was born in Dutchess County, New York. His second wife was Mary Keese, one of ten children of John, Jr. (1729-____) and Elisabeth (Titus) Keese. Elisabeth Titus was a daughter of Samuel Titus, son of Samuel and Elisabeth (Powell) Titus. John Keese, Jr. and Elisabeth were married in 1750 and had these children: Samuel; Stephen; William; Richard, who married Anna Hallock; John; Oliver; Sarah; MARY, who married Peter Hallock III; Elisabeth; and Phebe.

John Keese, Jr. was a son of John Keese of Flushing, New York, and Mary (Browne) Keese. The children of John and Mary Keese were:

(i) Mary, born 1721;
(ii) William, born 1723;
(iii) Samuel, born 1726;
(iv) JOHN, JR., born 1729; and
(v) Eleanor, born 1733.

John Keese, Jr. and his sons, Richard, John, Oliver, Stephen, and William, and his son-in-law, Peter Hallock, were among the early settlers at the hamlet of The Union in Clinton County, New York in 1786. In about 1812 the property of "Long Chute" came into the hands of Richard and Oliver Keese and John W. Anderson, who erected a woolen factory and iron works in 1813. The name of this place was first changed to "Anderson's Falls" and afterwards to **Keeseville**, in Clinton County.9

9 "History and Statistical Gazetteer of New York State", R.P. Smith, publisher, 8 St. Salina St., Syracuse, 1860.

Peter Hallock III and Mary (Keese) Hallock, who moved to Peru, New York in 1792, had these children:

(1) Elizabeth, who married James Jackson. They had children:

(i) Richard,
(ii) George, and
(iii) Daniel

(2) Joshua, who married Betsy Stafford and had children:

(i) Alma, who married her cousin, Anderson Keese of Peru, New York;
(ii) Mary, who taught in an academy at King's Bridge near York;
(iii) Peter;
(iv) Sarah Ann, who married Judge Rickettson in Illinois;
(v) Fritz Greene, of Keeseville;
(vi) Emily; and perhaps others.

(3) JOHN KEESE HALLOCK, the one of special interest in this ancestry will be described in a following section.

(4) Jemina, who married James Ricketson, lived near Keeseville, New York, and died in 1879.

(5) Isaac, who married Miss Smith and moved to Oakfield, Iowa. They had children:

(i) Richard, who was an army surgeon at St. Louis;
(ii) Addison;
(iii) Isaac; and
(iv) Melissa (Bradley).

(6) Phebe, who married Stephen Rickettson, lived near Keeseville, and died in 1880.

(7) George, who was born in 1806 and died in 1890, married three times. By his third wife Amanda, he had two sons, George P. and Charles H. George Hallock succeeded his father to the fine old Hallock home which descended to his son, George P. Hallock.

(8) Sarah, who died at the age of 25 years.

(9) Joseph Addison, called "Addison", became a Methodist preacher in the Erie Conference, Pennsylvania. By his first wife, ____ Brockway of Brockway, Pennsylvania, they had children:

(i) Addison,

(ii) Minerva, and
(iii) Robie.

John Keese Hallock7 (Peter III6, Peter, Jr.5, Peter4, John3, William2, Peter1)

John Keese Hallock, the third child of Peter Hallock III and Mary (Keese) Hallock, was born in Peru, New York on February 2, 1798, and died at Conneautville, Pennsylvania, on April 3, 1885. On July 26, 1818, he married Melissa Griffith, who was born October 22, 1801 and died January 28, 1877, at Clarion, Pennsylvania. Melissa was a daughter of Jonathan and Thirza (Allen) Griffith of near Peru, New York.

Jonathan Griffith, who was born October 10, 1771, and died in November, 1851, married twice. By his first wife he had a daughter, Sylvia, who married E. F. Barber. Jonathan and his second wife, Thirza Allen, had four children:

(i) MELISSA, who married John Keese Hallock;
(ii) Nancy, who married Royal Dewey and had two children — Harriet and Ashbury;
(iii) Allen, who married Nancy ____ and had one son, Willie;
(iv) Franklin, who married Pamelia ____.

John Keese Hallock and Melissa (Griffith) Hallock had ten children who grew to maturity and three who died in infancy. They moved to Erie County, Pennsylvania in 1820 and in 1828 John began to preach in the Methodist Church. He had been brought up a Quaker, as were members of that branch of the Hallock family descending from John, the grandson of the first Peter Hallock in America. Their children who lived to maturity were:

(1) Silva Hallock, born September 6, 1819, married Cortez Paine of Painesville, Ohio on July 14, 1835 and died January 12, 1900. The Paines lived at Painesville, Ohio; Beloit, Wisconsin; and Fayette, Ohio, where they died. Their children were:

(i) Addison, who died young; and
(ii) Jason Lee, born January 9, 1838, married Margaret Fletcher Kent. The children of Jason Lee and Margaret Paine are:

1. Charles Fawcett Paine, born October 30, 1866, married Clara Margaret Brown, lived at Fayette, Iowa and had

these children: Lucy Miriram (1896), Samuel Collins (1897) and Esther Margaret, (1908);
2. Amy Lee Paine, born September 2, 1872 and became principal of Norfolk, Nebraska high school;
3. Louie Bell Paine, born August 4, 1876, married Reverend George Blagg and had: Amy, Elizabeth (1905), John Creighton Lee, 1909, lived at Morning Sun, Iowa;
4. Margaret Ellen Paine, born June 15, 1878.

(2) THIRZA G. HALLOCK, born January 26, 1821, married Reverend Charles F. Wright, son of Reverend William H. Wright in 1838, and died at Rockton, Illinois, February 4, 1857. Their children were:

(i) Wilbur Wright, born about 1840 and died about 1895, married to Nellie ____ and lived near Warren, Illinois;
(ii) ADALINE, born 1842 and died 1895, married Moses C. Usher and described elsewhere in this account;
(iii) Julia.

(3) Jemima Hallock, born November 22, 1822, was married to Holman Johnson in 1847 and moved to Illinois. Their children were:

(i) Jennie, who married Rufus A. Hackett and lived near Mitchell, South Dakota;
(ii) John K. Johnson, married Ellen Francisco and had a daughter, LaVerne;
(iii) Addie, married J. W. Anderson in 1878, lived in Peoria until 1909, then moved near Mitchell, South Dakota. Their children:

1. James Hallock Anderson (1879) married Corinne C. Unland and had a son, Hubert Hallock Anderson;
2. Joseph Reynolds Anderson, born in 1882, married Ionia D. Stiles, and had a son, Rolland Hallock Anderson;
3. John Keith, born 1885, and married Florence Ethel Owen, had a son Owen Hallock Anderson;
4. Edward Garrett Anderson (1890); and
5. Grace Louise Anderson (1894).

(4) Nancy Jane Hallock, born September 30, 1824, and died February 2, 1909. She married a young lawyer, James Campbell, of Clarion, Pennsylvania on May 11, 1847. Their children:

(i) Mary Rachel, born February 19, 1848 and married December 21, 1872 to Reverend Thomas J. Sherrard, who died in 1905 in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. Their children were:

1. Virginia Sherrard, born June 4, 1873, married in 1905 to Reverend William Hallock Johnson, Ph.D., professor at Lincoln University, Pennsylvania and grandson of Reverend Dr. William W. Hallock who for many years was Senior Secretary of the American Tract Society. Their children were Hallock Sherrard Johnson, born April 18, 1906, and Roswell Park Johnson, born August 15, 1907;
2. Hallock Campbell Sherrard, born June 22, 1875 and married to Jane Barnard in 1909. They had a daughter, Anne Barnard Sherrard;
3. Mary Campbell Sherrard, born August 30, 1879;
4. Robert Andrew Sherrard, born July 30, 1885, and lived at Chambersburg, Pennsylvania.

(ii) James Hallock Campbell, second child of James and Nancy (Hallock) Campbell, died in infancy;
(iii) Elizabeth Lyon Campbell died in infancy;
(iv) Robert D. Campbell, born in 1854, married Sara Henderson, lived in Clarion, Pennsylvania, and had these children:

1. James Henderson Campbell, born 1879 and lived in Philadelphia;
2. Helen Templeton Campbell (1882-1900)
3. Robert Douglas (1883-1908);
4. Ruth Hallock Campbell (1892);
5. Sara Henderson Campbell (1897);

(v) John Keese Campbell, born 1856, married Elizabeth Sloan in 1884 and had these children:

1. Jane Wilson Campbell (1886);
2. James Sloan Campbell, 1888, married Jessie Laughlin and had a son, James Argyle;
3. Mary Hallock Campbell (1890)
4. Nancy Margaret Campbell (1894);

(vi) Harriett Hallock Campbell (1858) married Ross Reynolds in 1885. Their children:

1. Emily Campbell Reynolds (1886) married Oliver W. Gilpin of Kittanning, Pennsylvania;
2. Isadora Hallock Reynolds (1891);

(vii) Emily Clark Campbell, born April 18, 1862, married Dr. Charles J. Jessop, and died November 12, 1898. Their children were:

1. Emily Mary Jessop (1896) and
2. Charles Hallock Jessop (1898).

(5) Mary Ann Hallock, born March 26, 1827, married Dr. George F. Ingraham, lived in Conneautville, Pennsylvania and died April 5, 1854. Their children were Ettie, who died young, and Mary, born in 1854.

(6) Elisha Arnold Hallock, born March 17, 1830, married Caroline Greenfield December 12, 1853, and died July 11, 1896. Their children were:

(i) Albert S. Hallock (1855-1888);
(ii) Mary Helena Hallock, a nurse in the U. S. Army;
(iii) Martha Carlonie.

(7) Jane Ann Hallock, born March 17, 1833, married Martin Stone of Conneautville, Pennsylvania and secondly to Dr. S. Wilkenson of Madison, Ohio. Jane died in 1903. No children.

(8) Isaac Winans Hallock, born June 24, 1836.

(9) Cyntha Melissa (Lissie) Hallock, born February 6, 1839, married John Jennings of Plattsmouth, Nebraska, May 30, 1870, and died December 23, 1881. Their son, Hallock, died as an infant.

(10) John Keese Hallock, Jr., born April 25, 1844, married Mrs. Louise (Arbuckle) Porter, on October 2, 1871, and died April 2, 1897 in Erie, Pennsylvania. Their children were:

(i) John Keese Hallock, born October 28, 1873;
(ii) Louise Guy Hallock, born January 10, 1875;
(iii) Ruth Mary Hallock, born March 8, 1876. She lived in New York and was an illustrator who had illustrations in **Harper's Bazaar.**

Thirza G. (Hallock) Wright was in the eighth generation of Hallocks in America, descending from Peter Hallock (1590) who married Widow Howell and lived in America in 1640.

Thirza G. Hallock was in the eighth generation of at least seven other families who lived in America in those same early years. They were the families of:

John Swazey (____-1686)
Richard and Jane (Washburne) Willets
Thomas Bowne (1595-1675)
Robert and Elizabeth (Fones) Feaks
Robert (1600-____) and Hannah (1604-1679) Titus
Robert and Agnes (Washburne) Jackson
Captain John and Elisabeth (Strickland) Seaman

All of these earliest American settlers were the ancestors on the side of the father of Thirza G. Hallock. Thirza's mother descended from Jonathon Griffith (1771-1851) and Thirza Allen who are also thought to be related to early American families.

THE TITUS FAMILY

ROBERT Titus, born in 1600 to Silas (____ -1637) and Constatia (____-1667) Titus, and his wife Hannah (1604-1679) with their two oldest children, John at age 7 and **Edmond** at age 5, sailed from England to New England in the "Hopewell" in 1635. They settled at Seakunk, then at Oyster Bay, Long Island. Their other children were Samuel, Susanna, Abial, and Content.[10]

EDMOND2 Titus (1630-1715) (Robert1) married Martha Washburn (1637-1727), daughter of William and Jane Washburn and settled at Westbury, Long Island. The Titus descendants occupied the same farm for at least two centuries. Edmond and Martha were faithful members of the "Quaker Society". Their eleven children were:

(1) **Samuel** (1658-1732) married Elizabeth Powell, daughter of Thomas Powell of Bethpage;

(2) Phebe (1600-____) married first Samuel Scudder and second Robert Field;

(3) Martha (1663-____) married Benjamin Seaman, son of Captain John Seaman;

(4) Mary (1665-1747) married William Willis;

(5) Hannah (1667-____) married Benjamin Smith;

(6) Jane (1670-____) married James Denton;

(7) John (1672-1781) married first Sarah Willis and second Mary, widow of John Smith;

(8) Peter (1674-1753) married Martha Jackson, daughter of John Jackson;

(9) Silas (1676-1750) married Sarah Haight, daughter of Samuel and Sarah Haight;

(10) Patience (1678-____) married Nicholas Haight; and

(11) Temperance, born in 1681 and deceased in youth.

SAMUEL3 Titus (1658-1732) (Edmond2, Robert1) married Elisabeth Powell (____-1704), daughter of Thomas Powell

10 Long Island Genealogies, compiled by Mary Powell Bunker. Joel Munsells' Sons, Publishers. Albany, New York, 1895.
11 The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record, New York, 1946, Vol. LXXVII, No. 3, p. 97.

(1641-1721) at Bethpage, Long Island, on September 6, 1691. The Powells were also members of the Society of Friends on Long Island. Samuel and Elizabeth (Powell) Titus had four children:

(1) Phebe, born 1693, married John Haight;

(2) Temperance (1695-1704);

(3) Martha, born 1696, married Epenetus Wood; and

(4) **Samuel** (1704-1750) married Mary Jackson, daughter of John and Elisabeth (Hallett) Jackson, of Jerusalem.

SAMUEL4 Titus (1704-1750) (Samuel3, Edmond2, Robert1) and Mary (Jackson) Titus had seven children:

(1) Stephen (1727-____) married Sarah Mott;

(2) **Elizabeth** (1729-____) married John Keese, Jr. of Flushing, New York;

(3) Mary (1732-____) married Samuel Titus, son of Jacob;

(4) Samuel (1734-____) married Ruth Townsend, daughter of John, son of Richard Townsend;

(5) Richard (1736-____) married Abigail Weeks, daughter of Samuel and Deborah (Valentine) Weeks;

(6) Phebe (1739-____) married Nicholas Holmes;

(7) Jemina (1742-____) married William Thorne, son of Isaac and Hannah (Haight) Thorne.

ELISABETH5 Titus (1729) (Samuel4, Samuel3, Edmond2, Robert1) married John Keese, Jr. (1729-____), son of John Keese and Mary (Bowne) Keese of Flushing, New York. Mary Bowne (1698-____) was a daughter of Samuel (1667) and Mary (Becket) Bowne; a granddaughter of John Bowne (1627-1695) and Elizabeth (Feaks) Bowne; and a great-granddaughter of Thomas Bowne (1595-1675) and of Robert and Elizabeth (Fones) Feaks.

John and Elizabeth (Titus) Keese had ten children:

(1) Samuel;

(2) Stephen, who married a Haight;

(3) William, married Jemema (Baldwin) Bunker;

(4) Richard, married Anna Hallock;

(5) John;

(6) Oliver, married Paulina Lapham;

(7) Sarah, married a Thorn;

(8) **Mary**, who married Peter Hallock III;

(9) Elisabeth, married a Secor; and

(10) Phebe

MARY (Keese) Hallock, who married Peter Hallock III, was the mother of John Keese Hallock and the grandmother of Thirza G. (Hallock) Wright.

THE REVEREND CHARLES F. WRIGHT

The Reverend Charles F. Wright was the son of Rev. William H. Wright and Almira (Durham) Wright who were married in Trumbull County, Ohio in 1813. Charles was born in 1814 in Trumbull County.

It seems that Rev. Charles F. Wright was married at least three times. His first marriage was to Thirza Hallock in 1838 and to them were born Wilbur, Adaline, and Julia. Thirza died in 1857 and on July 15, 1857 Reverend Charles F. Wright was married in Winnebago County, Illinois to Amelia Carter. The 1860 census of Jo Davies County, Illinois shows that Charles F. Wright, a Methodist Clergyman, age 46, was living in Warren with his wife, Amelia, age 29. His daughter, Ada L., at age 19, was teaching school. In 1865 this daughter, Adaline or Ada, was married to Moses Usher.

The 1870 census of Jo Davies County shows that Wilbur Wright, age 30, was a clerk in a lumberyard at Warren. His wife, Eleanor, age 30, was born in England. Their children were Thomas, age 5, and Pearly, age 3.

Sometime later, Reverend Charles F. Wright married Sophia Muzzy, a daughter of A. W. Muzzy. Information in the source, **History of Lyon County Minnesota** by Arthur P. Rose, reveals that the Wrights and the Muzzy family were among the very first white people to settle in Lyon County, Minnesota.

A. W. Muzzy was one of a few men who visited in 1866 that part of Redwood County which later was set off as Lyon for the purpose of spying out the land and selecting claims. He selected a claim held by La Framboise on section, 33, Lynd, bargained for the purchase of this claim and made arrangements with the half-breed to hold it until his return.

According to an article written by Mrs. C. F. Wright, dated February 23, 1874, this La Framboise held the claim for Mr. Muzzy by living in the log cabin occupied earlier by James Lynd as his trading post. In June, 1867, A. W. Muzzy came and took possession and in September his family arrived.

The following is found on page 42 of Rose's **History of Lyon County, Minnesota;**

> A. W. Muzzy was untiring in his efforts to induce immigration to the vicinity. He wrote articles descriptive of the

country to newspapers in the East and West and enlisted the attention and cooperation of many leading men of Minnesota. His settlement in the county was due to his desire to found a Methodist colony. He and his son-in-law, Reverend C. F. Wright, planned to establish a large church and school for the education of the Indians. The scheme proved to be a visionary one but it resulted in giving to Lyon County many desirable citizens.

The Lynd settlement in 1867 was decidedly on the frontier where the making of homes was not accomplished without many difficulties and sacrifices. The only visitors were the Indians and the half-breeds who were still in the vicinity in small numbers. In 1868 the population was increased by a number of families, a post office was established to receive mail once per week from Redwood Falls, and a small store opened. Between Lynd and Redwood Falls, a distance of over 50 miles, there was but one house. According to a statement in the "Marshall Messenger", June 30, 1881: "I have known our townsman, A. D. Morgan to walk that fifty miles in one day, with a plow lay on his back, and return the next day."

Mrs. Fellows, of Lynd, spoke at an old settler's gathering in February 1885 and told of the conditions as she remembered them from 1869:

> The settlers lived in small, low, miserable log houses indeed, some of them were originally Indian tepees, remodeled to suit the emergency. Some were without floors, except the solid earth with a covering of prairie grass; after it became dry and broken it was raked off and fresh grass was cut and spread down. — The wind and snow and rain and flies and mosquitoes and gnats and all other nice things had full liberty to come and go at will.

The Methodists of the little settlement at Lynd organized a church society in October, 1868, and for the first time had the services of a regular clergyman, in the person of Reverend C. F. Wright. Reverend Wright was in charge of this church until 1870. In the years of 1868 and 1869, he was also the preacher at Redwood Falls, fifty miles to the northeast. He traveled between the two communities regularly alone and by walking across the prairies.

The first church building in Lyon County was erected by the Methodists early in 1871. It was located on the northwest quarter

of section 33, Lynd. The building was of logs, and a shake roof, and the floor was of earth. Reverend C. F. Wright preached the first sermon in the building.

It is reported that the first death recorded in the Lynd Township community was that of Mrs. Bowers, a sister of Mrs. C. F. Wright, on April 20, 1868. The first marriage was performed by Reverend C. F. Wright for W. H. Langdon and Zelpha Cummings in 1868.

On pages 619 and 620 of the History of Redwood County, Minnesota, compiled by Franklyn Curtiss-Wedge, 1916, is the account of the surveying in 1873 of the site of the present Redwood Falls cemetery. Reverend Wright's body and those of other early settlers were transferred from village places to the new cemetery.

Following is a copy of the obituary of Reverend Charles F. Wright:

> Died at Redwood Falls, Minn., Oct. 5, 1871, aged 57 yrs, 6 mo. 7 da.
>
> Rev. Charles F. Wright, son of Rev. Wm. H. Wright, was born in Camfield, Trumbull, Co., Ohio, March 9, 1814. He began his ministerial labors in Rockford, Illinois, 1847 and entered the Rock River Conference of the M. E. Church in 1850. He labored successfully at Chemung, Kanesville, Kingston, Marengo, Rockton, Lodi, Warren, Lighthouse, Lee Center — also at various points in Jo Davies County, Ill. And in Oct. 1868 imigrated to the extreme Frontier, of South Western Minnesota. He there organized the first Church and Sabbath School in Lynd, Lyon Co., Minn. fifty-eight miles west of Redwood Falls preaching alternately at these two places after traversing the dreary prairie on foot and alone. In Dec. 69, he was prostrated by paralysis and carried home on a bed narrowly escaping death by freezing on the way. Notwithstanding his prostration he continued his ministerial labors preaching in a chair in his own little cabin till within a few months of his death. His devotion to the cause of Christ and his faithfulness to the church and her interest remained firm and steadfast to the last. His widow remians at Redwood Falls, Minnesota and will give any further information his friends may desire.

McKNIGHT (or McNIGHT) FAMILY

The McKnight family and the Usher family were related through the marriage of Bessie Mildred McKnight to Elias Wright Usher in 1896.

The McKnight family, of Scotch descent, was founded in America before the Revolutionary War by three brothers. One of the brothers settled in Michigan, a second in Pennsylvania, and a third in Virginia.[12] The family of interest in this account descended from the brother who settled in Virginia. If the other two brothers had descendants as productive and adventurous as were the descendants of Anthony McNight this family had a profound influence in the development and the protection of this nation.

Anthony McNight, born about 1760-1770 and believed to be the son of a George McKnight, had a wife, Mary. They lived in Washington County, Virginia, where they owned property. At Abingdon on June 16, 1812, one hundred and fifty acres of land was deeded to Henry Crook for $500. An "Inventory and Appraisement" recorded in Book 5 in the office of the Clerk of the Washington County Court at Abingdon, Virginia on October 21, 1823 and devised by Joseph McNight was for the estate of Anthony McNight, signed by Joseph McNight and John McCullock, administrators. Names of purchasers of the estate include a Joseph McNight, Mrs. McNight, and James McNight.

Page 32 of the record of the 1810 census of Washington County, Virginia shows Anthoney as the head of a family with the following household:

Males — two under ten years of age
two between the ages of 10 and 16
one between the age of 26 and 45
Females — three under ten years of age
one between the age of 26 and 45

It is believed that the sons were:
James, born about 1794
Joseph, born in about 1799
Miles, born in about 1805
Anthony, born in about 1810

12 Compendium of Biography, published by Geo A. Ogle & Company. Chicago, 1899. p. 381.

These four sons are described as follows:

(1) James McNight arrived in Wisconsin from the Blue Ridge Mountains of Tennessee in 1827 and is reported to be the first white settler in what is now Lafayette County. He settled on the place later known as the Frank Sargent farm northwest of the village of South Wayne.

The 1860 census record of Lafayette County, Wisconsin shows the James McNight household as follows:

Name	Age	Occupation	State of Birth
James McNight	66	Farmer	Virginia
Catherine	41		Illinois
Antony	28	Farmer	Wisconsin
Benjamin	26	Farmer	Wisconsin
Robert	24	Farmer	Wisconsin
Thomas	22	Farmer	Wisconsin
Daniel	20	Farmer	Wisconsin
Sarah	18	Farmer's Kid	Wisconsin

The 1850 census shows Polly, age 79, born in North Carolina, living in the James McNight household. She was 23 years older than James and may have been his mother — Mrs. Anthoney McNight.

(2) JOSEPH McNIGHT (1799-1855) and his wife, Lucinda (Parks) McNight (1811-1846) arrived at Wayne, Wisconsin in the 1830's. They settled on a farm later known as the Dietz place. After about six years they moved to what was later known as the Watson place owned in 1965 by Glenn Krupke.

On April 22, 1852 Joseph McNight, Sr.; his son, Ellis Joseph; his brother, Anthony; and Anthony's wife left Wayne, Wisconsin by covered wagon to go to California. With four oxen on one wagon, a team of horses on another wagon, and two cows, they took six months in arriving at Marysville, California. Joseph's wife and his other children remained on the Wisconsin farm with son, Joseph, Jr. in charge.

After about three years in California, Joseph, Sr., and his son, Ellis J. KcKnight, took a steamer from San Francisco to Panama. They walked across the isthmus where the canal was later built. They went by boat across the Gulf of Mexico and up the Mississippi

River to Dubuque, Iowa. From Dubuque to South Wayne they took a stage coach.

Before the son, Ellis, left California, and while he was only 13 or 14 years of age, he was a pony express rider. He rode from Marysville, California to Pine Grove, to Gibeonville, to Iron Valley. At one place he had to ride the pony across a bridge made of a single log.

Joseph McNight and Lucinda (Parks) McNight had these children:

(i) Emily McKnight was born in Tennessee in about 1835.
(ii) Joseph S. McKnight was born in Lafayette County, Wisconsin on June 8, 1837. A more complete account of his life can be found in an earlier chapter. He was married to Eliza Foss Spokesfield, who was born in New Hampshire on May 24, 1843, and died at Humboldt, Nebraska on January 19, 1930, with burial at LeRoy, Minnesota. The Joseph S. McKnight family lived for many years at LeRoy, Minnesota where Joseph was a teacher, farmer, businessman, lawyer, politician, and a newspaper publisher. Joseph and Eliza had eight children: Eugene S., Nellie E., Lucinda Maude, Bessie Mildred, Dwight J., Johnny, Joseph D., and Walter W. A more complete account of this family can be found on earlier pages.
(iii) Ellis J. McKnight (1840-1932) was married on February 26, 1865 to Delia Borden (1844-1925). Delia Borden was a daughter of a Borden family which migrated from Ohio to Lafayette County, Wisconsin. Ellis and Delia had six children:

1. Jessie M. McKnight married Elmer Heltman.
2. Samuel W. McKnight (1867-1957) married Thresa P. (1884-1961). Their son, Richard, living with his wife, Lois, in the South Wayne, Wisconsin community in 1976, furnished much of the information included on the McKnights.
3. Bert R. McKnight (1875-1956) had a wife, Mabel G. (1875-1943).
4. Gene McKnight died young.
5. Clifford J. McKnight, born February 26, 1879 and died May 11, 1916 had a son, Fay (1903-1928); daughters Rosella, 1911 and Bertha, 1914, and perhaps other children.
6. Jeannette.

(iv) Jerusha McKnight, born about 1842, was listed as a teach-

er and in the household of Joseph S. McKnight, a brother, in LeRoy, Minnesota, in the 1880 census record.
(v) Andrew J. McKnight, born about 1844, served in the 5th Battery Wisconsin Light Artillery, McKnight's Battery, from December 14, 1863 to June 6, 1865. A certificate number 8-22 of the Department of Nebraska Grand Army of the Republic, **Civil War Veterans Buried in Nebraska** shows that Andrew J. McKnight was buried on Lot 22 in the G. A. R. Section of the Grand Island cemetery in Hall County, Nebraska. Other markers found on that lot in 1976 were:

Charity McKnight (1848-1934)
Probably his wife.
William R. McKnight (1868-1922).
According to an account in the **Grand Island Daily Independent**, January 31, 1922, he died at his home on January 30 leaving a widow and two children. His funeral was conducted at the Gedes Chapel by Rev. A. C. Hull of the Baptist Church. Perhaps this was a son of Andrew J. McKnight.
Lucy Goddard (August 2, 1880 - September 11, 1916)
The Grand Island newspapers of September 12, 14, and 15, 1916 carried accounts of her murder and the suspected slayer.
Della Crosslin (1880-1900).

Records in the archives at the Nebraska Veterans Home at Grand Island show that Andrew J. McKnight was admitted to the home on October 5, 1893 and discharged for reasons of insanity on September 1, 1900. His application for admission, dated March 7, 1893, shows that he was disabled because of lung trouble and rheumatism. At that time he was receiving $14.00 per month pension on certificate 176887 payable at Des Moines, Iowa. The record shows that he was a resident of Nebraska for 25 years preceding 1893. On July 20, 1893 he was found mentally and physically in need of rest according to a statement by a doctor at the home.

The records show that he had abstract of title to lots 1 and 3, block 18, University Place, Grand Island, Nebraska.

Various bits of information gathered from copies of the Grand Island City Directory show that A. J. McKnight was an inmate at the Soldiers Home in Grand Island in 1896. In 1893

Mrs. Charity McKnight and Miss Della McKnight had an address at 504 East 5 Street. Miss Lucy McKnight was at 417 E. 4 Street.

The other McKnights names found there between 1904 and 1910 were: William, a driver at the Soldiers Home; Grant and Mrs. Sophia in West Lawn; Miss Eva; and J. W. and Mrs. Victoria McKnight, 204 W 4. In 1913 those listed were William, Grace, Charity, Grant, and Sophia at University Place.

Andrew J. McKnight (1844-____) probably died about 1904, as the lot in which his body was placed was purchased on May 4, 1904. There is a marker at his grave but it has no dates engraved.

The grave markers for the parents of these five children can be found in a cemetery near South Wayne, Wisconsin. The large stones which are flat on the ground are engraved:

Joseph McNight
Died Jan 23, 1855 Aged 57 years
Lucinda, Wife of Joseph McNight
Died Oct 8, 1846

(3) Miles McNight, born to Mr. and Mrs. Anthoney McNight in Washington County, Virginia in 1805, went to Smith County, Tennessee when he was eighteen years of age. In 1827 he was married to Johannah Dillehay of Smith County and in about 1836 the family emigrated to Lafayette County, Wisconsin. Johannah Dillehay was born in Virginia on August 11, 1811.

Contained in an article describing William H. McKnight as an early resident of Custer County, Nebraska[13] is the following information relating to Miles McKnight:

> The year following the Black Hawk war they moved in covered wagons to Wisconsin, and for a number of years Mr. KcKnight was employed in the lead mines at Mineral Point, because, although he had taken up land, he had no capital with which to develop his farm and was consequently compelled to take other work. He passed the remainder of his life in Wisconsin and before his death, May 15, 1865, had seen his financial affairs in excellent shape, and was known in his community as

13 Gaston, W. L. and Humphrey, A. R., **History of Custer County, Nebraska.** Western Publishing and Engraving Company, Lincoln, Nebr. 1919 p. 456.

a well-to-do citizen. Mrs. McKnight survived him until 1873 and died in the faith of the Baptist Church, of which he also was a member. He was a Democrat in his political sympathies.

Miles and Johannah McKnight had seventeen children. The 1836 census of Iowa County, Wisconsin shows that Miles was the head of a houshold of six persons but the writers have not been able to find the names of these older children and perhaps some of the younger members of the family. Thirteen names follow as children of Miles and Johannah:

(i) Martha McKnight, born about 1831 in Tennessee.
(ii) Antony E. McKnight, born in Smith County, Tennessee on October 1, 1832. He was a private in Co. B, 31 Wisconsin Infantry from August 13, 1862 to January 20, 1863. He died at Lincoln, Nebraska on December 22, 1905, and was buried in Grave 136, G.A.R. Section 15 in the Wyuka cemetery in Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska.

The 1860 census of Lafayette County, Wisconsin shows Antony McKnight, age 27, with a wife Cynthia, age 24, born in Pennsylvania, and four children born in Wisconsin: Arminta, age 6; Charles, age, 4; Sylvia, age 3; and Joanna, age 1. Other children were: Mary Rosetha, 1861; Miles Elijah, 1864; Ulysses Sherman, 1866; William Jay, 1867; Abby Jane, 1870; Cynthia Ajunia, 1872; Irad D., 1874; A. R. 1875; and Orie Belle, 1878.

(iii) Caltha McKnight was born about 1837 in Wisconsin.

(iv) John Thomas McKnight, born April 5, 1839 in Wayne, Lafayette County, Wisconsin, is referenced as the third son of Miles and Johannah McKnight so there must have been an older son not named in this account. After completing public school in Lafayette County and engaging in milling for two years John T. McNight entered Hillsdale College at Hillsdale, Michigan and studied there until he enlisted in August, 1861 in the Fifth Wisconsin Light Artillery and in 1862 in Company B, Thirty-first Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. He was promoted from private to lieutenant and appointed quartermaster of the Twentieth Army Corps and attached to General Harrison's staff. At the close of the war he received the commission of brevet major and honorably discharged February 10, 1865.

During the war, on May 18, 1862, he was married to Mary E. Pinney, daughter of A. G. Pinney of New Jersey. Following

the war John Thomas McKnight taught school for a while and spent another year in Hillsdale College. In October 1870 the McKnights moved to Butler County, Nebraska where he farmed on section 12, Oak Creek Township for eight years before they moved to Brainard. He was in the real estate and collection business until he opened the Exchange Bank in 1885. A year later he admitted A. K. Smith to partnership and changed the name of the business to the Bank of Brainard. He was active in the development of the town of Brainard, built a number of its building, and was recognized as one of the most useful and valued citizens.

John Thomas McKnight and Mary (Pinney) McKnight had three children:

1. Albert H. McKnight, born in Wisconsin on April 29, 1868, and his wife, Sarah H. were residents of Dwight, Butler County, Nebraska until his death on July 27, 1901 at age 32. His marker can be found in a cemetery east of Brainard. He had been engaged in the hardware business in Dwight. Sarah and son, Leo, born in 1890 were living at Romona, South Dakota in 1905.
2. Eugene A. McKnight was in the hardware business in Lincoln, Nebraska.
3. Estella M. McKnight was married to Charles H. Harriger of Butler County, Nebraska.

John Thomas McKnight died on February 24, 1915 and was buried in the David City cemetery, Lot N½10, Section 1, Butler County, Nebraska.

(v) George Washington McKnight, born December 27, 1840, in Lafayette County, Wisconsin to Miles and Johannah McKnight became a leading grocer in Brainard, Nebraska.
On May 29, 1862 G. W. McKnight enlisted in Company D, Twentieth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. He was twice wounded and twice taken prisoner before his discharge on May 8, 1865. After the war he returned to farming at his Wisconsin home. He was married on April 14, 1866 to Anna Scott. In 1875 he moved to Mills County, Iowa where he was engaged in farming and the grain business until he moved to Butler County, Nebraska in 1885. He moved to Butler County as a carpenter and stayed with that work until he purchased and built a successful grocery business in Brainard. He took an

active part in the fraternal matters of that community.

G. W. McKnight and Anna (Scott) McKnight had six children:

1. Martha J. McKnight became the wife of William Gladish of Omaha, Nebraska.
2. Nora A. McKnight became the wife of George Perkins of Shelby, Polk County, Nebraska.
3. Emma M. McKnight became the wife of Thomas Stoddar of Omaha.
4. Alcena E. McKnight became the wife of J. B. Slade of David City, Nebraska.
5. Rebecca I. McKnight became the wife of Fred Hurst of Omaha.
6. James W. McKnight was at home with his parents at age nineteen.

George Washington McKnight died May 29, 1918 at Brainard, Nebraska and was buried in Lot SW 11, Section 1 in the David City cemetery in Butler County, Nebraska.

(vi) Matilda McKnight was listed as sixteen years of age, and born in Wisconsin, in the 1860 census record of Lafayette County, Wisconsin.

(vii) William Harrison McKnight was born in Lafayette County, Wisconsin May 20, 1850 a son of Miles and Johannah (Dillehay) McKnight. He was reared on the home farm and educated in the local schools before he ran away from home to join the Eleventh Illinois Cavalry with which he served for six months. He was much too young to be eligible to join the service.

In 1871 William was married to Etta Parson, a daughter of Monroe and Jane Parsons and to this union five children were born and four lived to adulthood:

1. Ira Derwood McKnight, born November 17, 1872, was married in 1899 to Minnie Belle Scott and had sons, Harold Harrison McKnight and Walter Sylvester McKnight. These McKnights lived in Holt County, Nebraska from 1907 to 1909 then moved to a farm at Glenwood, Iowa.
2. Lewis Winfield McKnight was also a farmer at Glenwood, Iowa.
3. Della Leora McKnight married Oscar Lee, principal of

the State Industrial School at Waukesha, Wisconsin.

4. Wilbur Harrison McKnight served in Company I, 168th Infantry in France in World War I.

5. Charlie McKnight died young, in 1888, and was buried in Wisconsin.

Mrs. Etta (Parsons) McKnight died December 13, 1888 and on Febraury 28, 1889, William H. McKnight married Belle Jones. She was born February 7, 1868 in Tippecanoe County, Indiana as a daughter of James Alfred and Louisa Elvira (Joslin) Jones.[14]

Mr. McKnight first came to Nebraska in 1879 and located in Butler County. He was not encouraged by the underdeveloped area, with few settlers, doing without conveniences and living in primitive sod houses. After two years he went back to Wisconsin but soon returned to Nebraska.

He farmed in Butler County until 1903 when he moved to Custer County, Nebraska and purchased 440 acres about two miles south of Berwyn. He established himself as a progressive and skilled farmer doing general farming and raising all kinds of livestock.

William H. McKnight and Belle (Jones) McKnight had five children:

1. Jesse Floyd McKnight.
2. Virgil Sidney McKnight, a Custer County farmer.
3. Forrest Edward McKnight
4. George William McKnight
5. James Theodore McKnight

The 1964 Atlas of Custer County, Nebraska showed the residences of three McKnights:

1. Forrest McKnight in Section 16 of Westerville Township NE with wife Anna and children, Hazel, Loyd, and Glenn.

2. Glenn McKnight in Section 19 of Spring Creek Township (N) with wife Rosalie and child, Renee Lee on Route 1, Comstock.

14 Gaston, W. L. and Humphrey, A. R., **History of Custer County, Nebraska.** Western Publishing and Engraving Company. Lincoln, Nebraska, 1919. p. 456 and 457.

3. Edward McKnight living in Douglas Grove Township with wife, Ruby, and children, Eddie, Gary, and David.

In blocks 6, 13, and 112 in the southwest part of the cemetery at Broken Bow, Nebraska can be found markers for:

William H. McKnight 'Father' 1850-1921
and
Flora Belle b. 1868 d. 1953

Lloyd E. b. June 3, 1928 d. July 13, 1951 WW II

Forest E. b. Apr 19, 1900 d. June 3, 1967
and
Anna M. (nee Armstrong) b. Aug 16, 1903 and living at Westerville, Nebr in 1972

Jesse F. McKnight b. 1892 d. 1923
Delores b. 1922 d. 1925

(viii) Catherine McKnight was listed in the 1860 census record of Lafayette County, Wisconsin, as eight years of age and a birthplace of Wisconsin.
(ix) Joanna McKnight was listed in the household of Miles and Johannah McKnight as six years of age in the 1860 census.
(x) Miles West McKnight was born in Lafayette County, Wisconsin in 1856. He was married October 24, 1877 to Alcena ____, who was born November 21, 1858 and died November 5, 1901. Alcena was buried in a cemetery east of Brainard in Butler County, Nebraska. Later Mr. McKnight married Ada M. ____ and was established in farming near Adams, Nebraska. In the Adams cemetery is a McKnight monument with these inscriptions:

Ada M. (1874-1933)
Miles W. (1856-1928)

(xi) Lafayette McKnight, born in 1859 or 1860
(xii) Matilda McKnight
(xiii) Belle McKnight

(4) Anthony McNight, born , to Mr. and Mrs. Anthoney McNight in Virginia in 1810, was listed in the 1860 Lafayette County, Wisconsin census with his wife Narcissa, born about 1816 in Tennessee. Census records show that they had at least nine children with approximate years of birth as follows: Mary, 1834;

James, 1833; Polly Ann, 1839; Harriet, 1842; Robert, 1844; Nevista, 1848; Lucinda, 1850; Lorenze, 1857; and Virginia, 1860.

The authors have more complete accounts of other branches of the McKnight family.

LETTERS

Following are copies of contents of two letters which were written by Thirza G. (Hallock) Wright. She was the wife of Reverend Charles F. Wright, the circuit-riding Methodist preacher, and she was the mother of Adaline M. Wright who became the wife of Moses Cleveland Usher.

The first letter, written at Kaneville. Illinois in February, 1853, was addressed to her parents, John Keese Hallock and Melissa (Griffith) Hallock. The second letter, written in February, 1854, was probably addressed to her brother, Elisha Arnold Hallock, who was married about two months before this letter was written.

This is a letter written by my Grandmother Wright,
wrote Alta Clikeman

Kaneville Feb 14/53

Very dear Parents, Brothers and Sisters with much joy we recieved a letter from you which was dated the 6 of Feb and we recieved it the 11th we were very glad to hear from you once more and hear that you are well we were very sorry to hear that Marys babe was so afflicted and also to hear that Nancy was so feble poor girl. I know how to simpathise with her. I hope I shall see her before she is done with this world of sorrow and care. I supose you would like to hear how we are getting along We are well except my cough which is rather tedious some of the time with that exception we are remarkably well. we are enjoying ourselves well we have a general time of prosperity on the circuit. Mr Wright is on the goe all of the Time and there is a general cry all over the circuit come and hold a **protracted** Meeting with us. (Cant you Brother Wright). he has only been home about weeks this winter except when he came to get clean clothes and to see us or preach to us which is every other Sunday morning. There is no one to help him not even one local preacher on the whole circuit except Father Shepherdson and he is to feble to preach. your father used to know him in North East. Mr. W. has all of the funerals to preach for all denominations which is quite a task. 3 weeks ago was **our** quarterly meeting at Kaneville we have all our quarterly meetings at the meeting house in Kaneville. it is first the center of the circuit and it is about 5 miles to the fatherast appointment we had an excelent meeting we have a very pleasant man for an elder Brother **Hitchock** our members cashed up our entire claim to us and the Elder we had

a Donation visit at our house on Fathers Birthday which was very pleasant indeed. There was supposed to be 300 here to Supper and there was perfect order and respect. There were those of all denominations here and all interested. There was 100 dollars donated and over 50 of cash. The rest in provisions and clothing. I wish I could send Mother a **dress** as I had four new ones, now you see we are in circumstances that we shall not suffer and if you could only come and stay with us one week you would say that we had friends enough. We are building a parsonage that will cost 300 it will be done and paid for in the spring (we have a very nice house this winter. There is a phisecian lives in the house with us they have no children. There is a merchant and his wife boarding with us. they have no children. They are Methodists. We enjoy their society very much. our children are at school so we have very quiet time. There is a minister and his wife here now. They came here on a visit and he was taken sick and have been here a week so we have quite a large family. Mr. W. is holding a protracted meeting now at Big Rock. There have quite a number of conversions on the circuit this winter. You will say that I have told enough about our selves so I will stop. we went down and spent my birthday with Uncle **Isac** They are well but wonder why Father dont write but father must write to us first. Aunt Kesiah and her family live in Chicago. She is a going to visit us soon. She spent four weeks with uncle Isac in the fall, Silva is much better this winter. her hands are very sore but her health is better. she cannot work. her hands are so sore. We have not heard from Jemima since last summer she is a Hallock and don't like to write. I generaly write to about four times before she will answer it. Harriett is well and so is her mother. Tell Mary to write just as soon as possible. This is written in great haste and full of mistakes but must recieve it from me that loves you all.

Thersa G Wright

This letter was written by my Grandmother Wright,
wrote Alta Clikeman

Kaneville Feb 5th/54

Very dear Brother I recieved your letter in due time and was very glad to hear from you and yours. I shall not attempt to write you much of a letter now for I do not feel very well and it (is) sabath eve. I am not able to go to church the children are at prayer meeting. Charles I suppose is preaching at a village on fox river

about 14 miles south of here on the lower end of the circuit. he labours very hard this winter is at home but little. I believe he has tried to preach every evening except three or four for 7 or 8 weeks. There is a general time of interest on the entire work which keeps him constantly on the go and then he cannot one half doe what ought to be done. every place want some extry labour, my health has been very poor this winter is the only reason why I have not written before, I have been troubled all of the four part of winter with the asma and of late it has been a nervous debility which has wholy unfited me for writing. Harriet was here and spent New Years that was not long after I got Marys letter and she told me that she had just got one and would answer it and write all about us so write untill I felt better. so I have rested easy until I got yours and found you had not heard from us in so long that I concluded to write a short letter to you and next week to Mary (as you was so kind as to write me to call and see you I just thought I would send you one of our donation tickets and invite you to call at the parsonage. I am sorry the tickets were not out sooner so you could get here and witness a crowd in Illinois I will give the particulars in my letter to Mary You will see my time will be wholly taken up for one week to come. the party will be at our house and the church which is in the same lot, you wrot that you were enjoying your selves. well I am very gald and I hope my brother that you can say with me when you and your wife have lived to gather 18 years that every year is spent more agreably and that the last is the hapiest in your life, and when you are boned around your little family **boned** remember your absent sister as I am deprived of the comfort of my dear husband. society and the family dutyes and responsibilities fall on me. Wilbur was sick for a long time but a kind providence had again restored health he was worse after I wrote and was reduced to a mere skeleton Ady is very much afflicted with the scrawfwlar or a species of it, it is large sore on her arms and about her face and neck and one on her hip we think she is getting better (she is a dear lovely girl you could not help liking her she is so amiable and lady like in all her ways. I just got a letter from Silva they are in usual health except Silva she is very miserable I hope you will let Mary read this letter tell her I will write soon. Tell Father we get the Pitsburg Advocate every week and think he must be the cause of it. We thank him very much. does he get our North Western and how does he like it. Please give our love to all of our folks especyly to Father and Mother (Remember me in particular to your wife. I with her hope someday form an acuaintance with her. I hope my dear

brother you will excuse my poor letter I have got the nervous headache and I new very well if did not write this eve that I could not for some days.

Yours in haste T G Wright

Following is the content of a letter written to the editor of a newspaper in 1915. It was written by John Mitchell Usher (1844-1925)

WANTED — A MAN OR WOMAN

Mr. Editor and Friends and Neighbors: I have read with much interest your arguments and pleas for fair dealing and justice and have come to the conclusion that each is seeking the good of the valley and only differ in the modes of attaining that end. My thoughts are reaching out beyond the valley and take in the whole United States. As we have been looking for a man large enough to sell our apples in such a way that it shall be profitable to us and practicable to the consumer, so my imagination goes out to a scheme that will carry products from producer to consumer without so many profits between them. Please don't say "it cannot be done," or "it has always been so, and always will be so." Things are being done that have never been done before. For instance, booze has been going down peoples' throats ever since the earth dried off after the flood. Now the Czar of Russia by edict says "stop it" and it stops. Our neck of the woods is doing something along this line also.

It goes without saying that there is a spirit of unrest. The laborer casts jealous eyes at the person who has accumulated great wealth and says, "plutocrat, octopus," etc. I am not going to say all wealthy people are bad. Accumulated wealth does many good things for us. What I am after is the swarm of go-betweens — parasites that get a large share of what is intended for the laborer. You ask what do you propose to do about it. I answer have Uncle Sam deliver whatever we need to live on — apples, flour, potatoes, meat, overalls, narrow dresses, wide hats, and other articles too numerous to mention, direct from the grower or manufacturer. As an instance of what the government can do for us, let us look at the mail matter. A very good farm paper comes to me weekly from Des Moines for 75 cents a year or one and one-half cents a week. Let us compare this deal direct from the publisher with an attempt to buy a little sugar to sweeten our apple sauce. The cane or beets are raised in a state about the same distance from us. The sweet juice is extracted in near-by cities, then goes to another city to be

refined, then into a trust, then to wholesale grocers and finaly falls into the hands of the grocer in Cashmere and then the housewife. I have passed by one feature in its travels, and that is the tariff. Both houses of Congress have wrangled for months over this subject in the light of how it will affect the eater, the refiner, the grocer and the re-election of the congressman. The president delivers messages, threatens vetoes and considers the effect on the party; also the revenue must be taken into consideration.

I am not a calamity howler, but any sane person must see that the big strikes, dynamiting, etc., are portentious. Even our high officials investigate the high cost of living. We apple growers can place our hands on our heart and say we are not even remotely accessory. In the light of the success of the parcels post, the hope of railroad building in Alaska, is it too optimistic to look for the time to come when the strong arm of the government will take our produce to the consumer at the actual cost of transportation. Instead of building jails for rioters and dreadnoughts for coast defense let us build railroads, canals and steamboats to transport our products to the eaters.

We headed this article, "Wanted a Man or Woman." Now who is big enough to swing this deal? We are not particular what political party he belongs to, whether he has shot elephants or quelled angry Mexicans or addressed Chautauquas. We are not particular whether it is a man or woman. If you know of anybody big enough for the job let us hear from you through the Open Forum.

J. M. USHER.

The following account was written by Isabel (Usher) Anderson, daughter of Elias Wright Usher (1866-1948) on December 9, 1976. It is written about her father with references to other members of the family for whom full names have been inserted.

I've many things I should write to you and shall surely take time to write some of them in the weeks to come. Tonight I do want to tell you an interesting little thing about Daddy. An old lady still living in Dallas cut out from an old Dallas News this ad. She used to work in the news office and she commented about Daddy writing his own ads. He liked them to use his words, but wanted his English and spelling corrected. He used colorful, yet down-to-earth words and I liked to hear him talk, tell stories using the dialect of the Irish, Scandinavians, Germans, Old English. He was a great story-teller and sometimes as I look back, I wonder if his "gift of gab" wasn't somewhat instrumental in getting him elected president of the school board, president of the telephone company, always serving on the election board, and long before I was a part of it, on the city council (His friends liked his stories).

Mother has such beautiful memories of him. She talks about how she and many of the young women working with her had such a deep respect for him because he was such a decent man and they trusted him because he was older and they often sought his advice. She said when he first started dating her, he treated her as if she were special and proudly introduced her to his friends and he never ceased treating her this way through their almost 35 years of marriage. When I asked her just how she happened to fall in love with a man exactly 22 years older than her, she answered, "I believe it was because when we were out on a date, he would always have to stop in to see how his children were. In spite of having a mature woman to care for his children, he never forgot that he was a father and that they were in his care and I thought what a loving husband and father he would be. I wasn't wrong!" Mother had a good relation with her in-laws. She thought that **Grandpa Moses** was one of the cleanest old men she had ever known. She described him as a very good man who had no "meanness in him." He did not smoke and kept his snowy white beard scrumptiously clean. She remembers **Aunt Saidee** — Sarah Maria (Usher) Bordner — as the pretty, stylish one — and she was. When she came to visit us on the farm, she came with hair curled, high heels, earrings and other jewelry, and always a dress in one of the latest styles. Mom speaks of when **Aunt Alta** — Thirza Altana

(Usher) Clikeman — was the principal at Kadoka, South Dakota — and how much she loved to visit and how Uncle Rex — Clikeman — was such a fine man. **Uncle Dick** — James Dickens Usher — had a good voice and sang hymns for 15-30 minutes every Sunday over a Rockford or Chicago radio station for a long time. His wife, Aunt Emma, was very artistic and at the time they owned and operated the Black Hawk Hotel, she had hung her paintings in many of the rooms. **Uncle Johnny** — John Keyes Hallock Usher — was her favorite, possibly because as he grew older and looked and talked more and more like Daddy in spite of the fact that his eyes were brown and Daddy's were blue. — Mom has often commented through the years about Daddy's mother and how she must have been an unusual woman in her time: She had noticed that Alta was scholastic and encouraged her to get an education. (She became principal at Kadoka.) She recognized Dick's talent in music so he had some vocal lessons. (He sang over the radio) One of the girls (Julia? Josie?) showed aptitude in sewing so she had sewing lessons and became a seamstress. Daddy danced well without training so she saw that he took a few lessons. (He taught all of his daughters to waltz! Ha.) Grandma Usher, having been a teacher, corrected her 9 children whenever they used incorrect English. Consequently, they all spoke quite fluently. She was a religious woman. On Daddy's 21st birthday he was working out in the Wisconsin woods at a logging camp — but it was walking distance from his home. His mother sent his two little sisters (Mable and Alta, I believe) with a new Bible and a Bible marker for his birthday. I still remember the marker: a piece of beige satin ribbon about 2 inches wide with **E. W. Usher** painted in little blue forget-me-nots with green leaves that she had painted for his birthday. — She had a sense of humor, too, because earlier that year (or another year) she sent those same little sisters with 2 pies for the men. Both looked like lovely cream pies with thick meringue: one was what it looked like; the other was filled with cotton. This happened April 1, 1887 or 1888 — when Daddy was 21 or 22.

Daddy, as a young man, did want an education enough to get a job in town and start high school in Warren, Ill. He got along all O.K. except he refused to go to English classes. He couldn't see that taking English would ever help him in any way. His teacher thought differently so he didn't finish his first term but instead went to work full time. This is true as Uncle Dick told me when he visited Ernie and me during our first year of marriage.

Mother, too, started high school but she had such a hard job

that she simply didn't have time to study. She continued on for several months but finally gave up. (This was in Butte, Nebraska.)

Mother came from a family of 11 children; Christina, Matilda, Emil, Laura, Dagmar, Ida, Nora, Lena, Helen, Louise, and William. Emil and Helen died in infancy. Mother, Louise, and William are the only ones still living. (I listed them according to age.)

Grandpa John Christian Sorensen was born at Vesterskov, Voer parish, Denmark on June 17, 1859 and died in 1952 at Butte, Nebr. Grandma Anne Marie Pedersen was born at Raabjerg parish, Horns Herred, Denmark on Aug. 19, 1860 and died in 1949 at Dallas, S. Dak.

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